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Part XIII
Development Account

Section 35
Development Account

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* A summary of the approved programme budget will be issued as A/68/6/Add.1.

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Overview

Table 35.1 **Financial resources**

Approved resources for 2012-2013[a]	29 243 200
Changes in line with General Assembly resolution 67/248	(844 400)
Total resource change	(844 400)
Proposal of the Secretary-General for 2014-2015[a]	28 398 800

[a] At 2012-2013 revised rates.

Overall orientation

35.1 Section 35 comprises the resource requirements related to the Development Account. The activities programmed under the section respond to the objectives of various programmes of the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6/Rev.1) that implement Development Account projects.

35.2 Pursuant to the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/12 B, decided, inter alia, to establish a development account in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. In its resolution 52/221 A, the Assembly approved an appropriation of $13,065,000 for the Development Account under section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

35.3 In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/235, in which the Assembly requested a detailed report on the sustainability of the Development Account, the modalities of its implementation, the specific purposes and the associated performance criteria for the use of resources, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the operation of the Development Account (A/53/945). Having considered that report and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.12), the Assembly, in its resolution 54/15, decided, inter alia, to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the programmes of the approved medium-term plan. Over the past eight bienniums (1998-1999, 2000-2001 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2006-2007, 2008-2009, 2010-2011 and 2012-2013), the Assembly has approved 256 projects for funding through the Development Account.

35.4 In its resolution 60/246, the General Assembly decided that the Development Account would be recosted for the biennium 2006-2007. That exercise led to an increase of $889,100 at the stage of the initial appropriation for that biennium. During the preparation of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, the Account was again recosted, resulting in a further increase of $26,800. By its resolution 61/252, section IV, paragraph 5, the Assembly decided to appropriate the amount of $2.5 million for the Development Account as an immediate exceptional measure aimed at addressing the lack of transfer of resources to the Account since its inception. Furthermore, by its resolution 62/235 A, paragraph 2 (d), the Assembly decided to increase the provision under section 34, Development Account, by the amount of $5 million for the biennium 2006-2007. By its resolution 62/238, section VIII, paragraph 11, the Assembly decided to appropriate $2.5 million for the Account for the biennium 2008-2009. By its resolution 64/243, part XIII, paragraph 140, the Assembly decided to appropriate an additional amount of $5 million for the Account for the biennium 2010-2011. By its resolutions 66/246 and 66/248 A, the Assembly approved a total appropriation under the Development Account for the biennium 2012-2013 of

$29,243,200, reflecting an increase of $16,178,200 compared with the level of the Account approved by the Assembly at its inception.

35.5 Detailed proposals on the use of these resources during the biennium 2014-2015 for the ninth tranche of the technical cooperation projects, set forth in the annex to the present fascicle, are based on the procedures and arrangements for the use of the Development Account approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 53/220 A, 53/220 B, 54/15, 54/249, 56/237, 60/246, 61/252, 62/235, 62/237, 62/238, 64/243, 64/244 and 66/248.

35.6 The objective of the Development Account is to fund capacity development projects in the priority areas of the United Nations Development Agenda that benefit developing countries. The Account encourages the close collaboration of entities of the United Nations Secretariat on innovative, cross-sectoral national, subregional, regional or interregional projects. In an impact review of the Account carried out in its tenth year of operation, pursuant to a request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/252, the entities implementing Account projects underscored the Account's importance not only as a tool for linking their normative and analytical capacities, but also as a means of building cooperative working relationships with United Nations entities and strengthening regional and subregional cooperation. The entities also viewed the Account as an important vehicle for testing new methodologies and tools, building capacities that serve developmental objectives and activities, utilizing the capacities of developing countries and encouraging South-South cooperation (see A/62/466, para. 22).

35.7 The overall theme of the ninth tranche of the Development Account is "Supporting Member States in designing and implementing strategies and policies towards sustainable, equitable and inclusive development". The outcomes of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010 and more recently, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, provide a main anchor for the theme of the ninth tranche and the expected accomplishments under the projects. The projects respond to both the thematic and the cross-cutting issues identified at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and recognize the differentiated needs of countries in responding to common issues. As a capacity development programme, the Development Account follows the intergovernmental guidance provided for the implementation of the global development agenda, international norms and standards, development cooperation and modalities for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, particularly in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of such activities, and activities on system-wide coherence.

35.8 The 46 projects proposed for funding under the ninth tranche will be implemented by nine entities of the Secretariat under the purview of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), all United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs acts as the Programme Manager of the Account. The design of the projects envisages execution by the global and regional implementing entities in partnership with each other, as well as with other entities of the United Nations system and international and national organizations.

35.9 The proposed projects comply with the criteria established by the General Assembly and take into account the capacity of the implementing entity concerned to carry out the project activities within the established timeline. The implementing entities are expected to use human and technical capacities within developing countries, to the extent possible, in order to maximize knowledge transfer and developing skills and capacity-building within developing countries, including through South-South cooperation. Projects are focused specifically on responding to emerging needs of Member States, reflecting the challenges identified at the United Nations Conference on

Sustainable Development, and helping to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, taking into account the interlinkages of the economic, social and environmental pillars.

35.10 The list of proposed projects was endorsed by the Steering Committee of the Development Account at its meeting on 19 December 2012 and approved by the Programme Manager on 4 January 2013 for submission to the General Assembly for its consideration.

35.11 The complexity and the scope of managing the Development Account have further increased in recent bienniums. Since its establishment, the Account has funded a total of 256 projects, of which 118 remain active and/or require programme management support, spanning tranches 6 through 8 (not including the 46 projects set out in the annex to the present fascicle). The Programme Manager engaged in specific efforts to effectively face the challenges of this growth. A comprehensive proposal on the architecture for the Account's governance and management was developed to strengthen the management of the Account and ensure strong results orientation, including by further defining the roles and responsibilities of all actors, particularly the Programme Manager; the Capacity Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Account; and the implementing entities. The aim of the new architecture is to enhance inclusiveness, transparency and accountability while promoting more timely and effective delivery of capacity development projects to Member States.

35.12 In September 2012, in response to the increasing expectations of Member States with regard to the monitoring and evaluation functions of the Development Account, the Programme Manager launched a task team on evaluation. The objective of the task team is to assist the Programme Manager in strengthening the formalization of the evaluation functions, including through improved evaluation mechanisms and guidelines. As part of this process, the task team has also been asked to consider new approaches to the Account's evaluation mechanisms, with a possible shift from project-specific evaluations to cluster and thematic evaluations. The outcome of the task team's work will first be presented to the Steering Committee for its consideration and subsequently submitted to the Programme Manager for endorsement. The human resources capacity of the Account's programme management team (funded under section 9) was strengthened late in 2012 through the recruitment of a dedicated Associate Evaluation Officer funded through the United Nations associate expert programme for two years. This position will help provide ongoing monitoring of projects, review and assess the annual progress and evaluation reports, and draw on lessons learned, which will feed back into the Account's programming, guidelines and reporting to the General Assembly. As this position will cease in 2014, new arrangements will be required in order to support the Account's evaluation function on a long-term basis at a more senior level.

35.13 Strengthened quality assurance processes in the formulation of project proposals is a key goal that has been set for 2013, together with ensuring cooperation across those projects that offer synergies and whereby additional efficiencies may be achieved. To this end, a Development Account network is being established, which will promote the consistent sharing of project concepts, project documents, evaluation reports and lesson learned. The network will also provide a platform for the testing of new ideas to improve the impacts and results achieved through the Account. A new initiative to be explored in 2013 is the possible shift from a single project approach to a more programmatic approach centred on the thematic clusters of projects.

35.14 The present fascicle should be read in conjunction with the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account, prepared in accordance with a request by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/58/7/Add.5) that a separate progress report be submitted to the Assembly detailing the impact and lessons learned.

Overview of resources

35.15 The overall resources proposed for the biennium 2014-2015 for section 35 amount to $28,398,800 before recosting, reflecting a decrease of $844,400 (or 2.9 per cent) compared with the resources for 2012-2013 at revised rates. The decrease results from the changes made in line with General Assembly resolution 67/248. The proposed reduction of $844,400 will be achieved through a uniform cut across the 46 projects proposed for funding under the ninth tranche, on the basis that this is the most equitable distribution. Depending on the size and complexity of the project in question, the average proposed reduction is on the order of $18,000, but ranges from $12,000 for a small, $400,000 project to up to $35,000 for a $1.2 million project.

35.16 The project managers reviewed their portfolio of possible activities in the light of the reductions and reorganized and cut the number of activities. It is anticipated that the reduction will entail fewer target countries than planned and less in-depth activities in the selected countries.

35.17 It should be noted that section 35 undergoes reprogramming, including reprioritization, by programme managers each biennium because it comprises a portfolio of activities that are non-recurrent requirements. The portfolio consists of new, multi-year projects, and each proposed programme budget for a new biennium reflects the introduction of newly programmed, non-recurrent activities. The project managers will have further consultations with their stakeholders (implementing partners and target groups) in 2014 in order to prepare detailed project documents with a thorough analysis of the issues and needs involved and provide a detailed implementation plan.

35.18 Table 35.2 subcategorizes the resource requirements related to projects proposed under the section.

Table 35.2 **Financial resource by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Regular budget

			Resource change								
Component	*2010-2011 expenditure*	*2012-2013 resources at revised rates*	*Technical adjustment (delayed impact and non-recurrent)*	*New mandates and inter-component changes*	*In line with resolution 67/248*	*Reflected in budget outline report*[a]	*Total*	*Percentage*	*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2014-2015 estimate*
Development Account	23 651.3	29 243.2	–	–	(844.4)	–	(844.4)	(2.9)	28 398.8	–	(28 398.8)

[a] A/67/529 and Corr.1.

35.19 A summary of resource requirements for the ninth tranche of projects by object of expenditure is presented in table 35.3 below.

Table 35.3 Resource requirements by object of expenditure (before recosting)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2014-2015
Other staff costs	1 149 980
Consultants	7 221 000
Experts	849 400
Travel of staff	3 847 900
Contractual services	3 225 100
Fellowship, grants and contributions	424 000
General operating expenses	453 600
Furniture and equipment	423 400
Seminars and workshops	10 804 420
Total	**28 398 800**

Annex

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account during the biennium 2014-2015

A. Strengthening the capacity of national tax administrations in developing countries to effectively negotiate and apply double tax treaties for the financing of sustainable development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($632,000)

Background

1. Double tax treaties play a critical role in promoting international investment. As international law places very few limits on the tax sovereignty of countries, income from cross-border investments and activities may generally be taxable both in the country where investment or other activity takes place and in the country of the investor or trader, according to their respective domestic tax laws. Such double taxation usually serves as a deterrent to cross-border investment, which is an important engine of development.

2. Double tax treaties are bilateral agreements between two countries, which allocate taxing rights over such income from cross-border investments and activities between those countries and thus prevent double taxation of the income. The prevention or elimination of international double taxation is a significant aspect of the investment climate of countries, which is essential for investment flows between countries, the exchange of goods and services, the movement of capital and persons, and the transfer of technology. Moreover, double tax treaties enhance cooperation among tax administrations, especially in tackling international tax evasion.

3. The two models most widely used by countries as a basis for the negotiation of their bilateral tax treaties are the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Model Tax Convention on Income and on Capital. The similarities between the OECD Model and the United Nations Model reflect the importance of achieving consistency where possible. On the other hand, the divergences between them reflect the different memberships and priorities of the two Organizations. The key differences relate in particular to the issue of to what extent a country should forgo, under bilateral tax treaties, taxing rights, which would otherwise be available to it under domestic law, with a view to avoiding double taxation and encouraging investments. In general terms, the United Nations Model tends to preserve a greater share of taxing rights for the country where investment or other activity takes place. The OECD Model, on the other hand, favours the retention of a greater share of taxing rights by the country of the investor or trader. Thus, the United Nations Model would normally allow developing countries more taxing rights on income generated by foreign investments in those countries. By protecting the specific interest of developing countries in retaining a greater share of taxing rights over the income sourced in those countries, the United Nations Model-based treaties contribute to the generation of revenue, which can be used to meet development needs. On the other hand, however, the provisions of the United Nations Model take into consideration that taxation in the source country should not be too high so as not to discourage investment, and recognize the appropriateness of the sharing of revenue with the country providing the capital.

4. Many developing countries lack an adequate understanding of the provisions of the United Nations Model, especially those of its new, 2011 version. Accordingly, the project will focus on strengthening developing countries' capacity to effectively utilize tax treaties, drawing on the United Nations Model, with a view to encouraging investment while combating tax abuse. This outcome will contribute to a broader objective, which is to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to support more effective and efficient tax systems for the financing of sustainable development. The above-mentioned outcome will be achieved as a result of efforts to address skill and knowledge gaps in the national tax administrations of developing countries through the organization of training seminars and the institutionalization of a self-sustained training programme.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of the national tax associations and ministries of finance of developing countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region and Asia to effectively negotiate and apply double tax treaties, drawing on the United Nations Model, with a view to improving the investment climate, increasing tax revenue and combating tax evasion

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 9 (Financing for development); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 2 (Trade and investment); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 3 (Macroeconomic policies and growth); Millennium Development Goal 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	40.0
Consultants	247.0
Travel	137.0
Contractual services	50.0
Workshops/training	158.0
Total	**632.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Strengthened capacity of the national tax associations and ministries of finance in the Latin American and Caribbean region and Asia to effectively negotiate and apply double tax treaties	(IA1.1) Increase in the number of negotiated or renegotiated treaties
(EA2) Strengthened capacity of national tax associations and regional organizations in the Latin American and Caribbean region and Asia to institutionalize capacity development and knowledge in the area of the negotiation and application of double tax treaties	(IA2.1) Number of requests from countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region and Asia for training and/or technical cooperation workshops, including the use of trainers accredited by a "train-the-trainer" programme

Main activities

5. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize 3 subregional training seminars in the Caribbean and Asia to strengthen the capacity of national tax associations to negotiate and apply double tax treaties, drawing on the United Nations Model;

(A1.2) Develop 2 regionally adapted training materials on double tax treaties based on the outcome of the training seminars;

(A1.3) Carry out 2 advisory missions with national workshops in 2 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region and 2 countries in Asia each to support their formulation of inputs into the policymaking processes for double taxation;

(A2.1) Conduct a train-the-trainer programme for both regions based on the United Nations Course on Double Tax Treaties;

(A2.2) Develop an online course on double tax treaties in English and Spanish, to be hosted on the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical e-learning platform;

(A2.3) Develop an online platform to host activities of networks of tax officials responsible for the administration and negotiation of double tax treaties.

B. Supporting Member States in developing and strengthening environment statistics and integrated environmental-economic accounting for improved monitoring of sustainable development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($691,000)

Background

6. Monitoring and measurement of progress towards environmental sustainability is weak, owing to insufficient production of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounts. In 2012, the Statistical Commission adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA), and in 2013 it endorsed the revised Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). The implementation of SEEA and FDES will help countries to address the increasing demand for integrated information in support of integrated policies in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda.

7. The project is aimed at addressing the technical and institutional barriers to the establishment of routinely produced environment statistics and environmental-economic accounts at the national level. The project is composed of two complementary modules, developed in a harmonized manner. The first module will be focused on strengthening the regular and sustained production of national environment statistics. This will be done by supporting five countries at early stages in the development of environment statistics in one or two selected developing regions/subregions. This module (environment statistics using FDES) will work with countries that show strong institutional commitment in embarking on an environment statistics programme to develop a multipurpose set of environment statistics to be used for, inter alia, environmental reporting and assessment, environmental indicators and environmental-economic accounts. The beneficiaries of the project at the national level will be practitioners working in governmental agencies engaged in the production of environmental data and environmental statistics and indicators, as well as users of environment statistics, including the national statistical office, the environmental ministry or equivalent institution and the sectoral authorities responsible for, inter alia, energy, water, protected areas, coastal and marine resources, forests and agriculture.

8. The second module (environmental-economic accounts using SEEA) will be focused on building capacity and infrastructure for the compilation of environmental-economic accounts, based on an international statistical standard, integrating environment and economic statistics and linking it to policy demand. It will support four countries in four regions capable of leading subregional implementation. Implementation will focus on selected modules based on priorities of participating countries. Beneficiaries of the project at the national level will be compilers of environmental-economic accounts within national statistical offices and other line ministries, as well as users of environmental-economic accounts who are responsible for formulating integrated policies. These include ministries of finance, national planning, environment, economic development, agriculture and energy or equivalent institutions. In addition, practitioners working in international, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and universities, the private sector and the public at large will benefit from the project.

9. Being familiar with the state and the expressed needs of the regions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will determine and prioritize activities through dialogue with the regional commissions, other regional or subregional institutions and participating countries. Through the partnerships with these institutions, technical assistance and training can be tailored to a particular country or group of countries to ensure maximum matching to their needs. Participating countries will be selected on the basis of the criteria of needs, requests and national political support.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the national capacities of developing countries for the sustained, regular production of a priority set of environmental statistics, environmental-economic accounts and the resulting indicators, in order to measure progress towards sustainable development

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goal 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	167.3
Expert group meetings	32.0
Travel	105.7
Operating expenses	2.0
Workshops/training	384.0
Total	**691.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Participating countries have increased technical capacities to regularly produce a comprehensive set of environment statistics, based on FDES, according to their own policy demands and commitments	(IA1.1) Increased regional/subregional and national blueprints for action in environment statistics outlining programmes and activities to promote the production of environment statistics/indicators series developed by the participating countries (IA1.2) Increased availability of priority environment statistics within the national statistical systems of participating countries, through the use of FDES and the core set of environment statistics

(EA2) Strengthened institutional and technical capacity of national statistical offices to develop national and regional strategies for SEEA implementation in response to policy needs for more comprehensive and accurate statistical information on the interactions of the environment and the economy	**(IA2.1) Number of regional implementation strategies for SEEA that have been completed and agreed upon** **(IA2.2) All participating countries have completed the national self-assessment on the institutional environment, data availability and data requirements for the implementation of selected SEEA modules** **(IA2.3) Compilations of minimum sets of tables and accounts for selected SEEA modules in four countries, one per region, have been completed**

Main activities

10. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop and apply the self-assessment tool for environment statistics based on the core set of environment statistics in the participating countries (ex ante and ex post assessment);

(A1.2) Develop regional/subregional and national blueprints for action in environment statistics in each region/subregion and participating countries in order to construct a road map for each country and subregion guiding the implementation of the activities;

(A1.3) Organize 2 regional/subregional capacity-building workshops and 1 national workshop for each of the 5 countries, using FDES and the core set of environment statistics to train the practitioners (e.g., national statistical office, Ministry of the Environment) and develop and strengthen methodological and statistical capacities in environment statistics at the national level;

(A1.4) Provide technical support to countries in strengthening or improving their production of selected environment statistics series and/or indicators, by organizing technical assistance missions that will review the progress made to date, and provide guidance as necessary;

(A1.5) Foster, launch and document national inter-institutional platforms and data-sharing protocols in order to improve and develop environment statistics at the national level, based on the initial country team leadership as appropriate in each country;

(A2.1) Develop diagnostic tools in support of the national self-assessment on institutional environment and data availability and requirements for the implementation of SEEA;

(A2.2) Organize 4 subregional meetings (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)) to build capacity in countries for the national self-assessment on the basis of policy priorities and the development of national strategies. Target audiences include national compilers and users of environmental-economic accounts;

(A2.3) Develop, under the coordination of the regional commissions and involving a regional coordinator, regional implementation strategies for SEEA and construct a multi-year road map in the region to provide guidance and milestones for the implementation of activities;

(A2.4) Organize pilot projects in one lead country of each subregion for the compilation of environmental-economic accounts and statistics;

(A2.5) Develop compilation guidelines in support of capacity-building in countries and assist countries in the compilation of a minimum set of tables and accounts for selected SEEA modules.

C. Strengthening the capacity of small island developing States to assess progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy to mitigate risks and reduce vulnerability

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Programme ($588,000)

Background

11. The 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is the blueprint for addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. The Barbados Programme of Action outlined a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral programme detailing priority actions to respond to the special challenges faced by small island developing States. These commitments were reaffirmed through the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. In September 2010, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/2, reviewed the progress made through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. These high-level reviews highlighted that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in small island developing States would not be possible without adequately addressing their vulnerabilities and institutional constraints.

12. The 2010 review showed that while small island developing States in general have attempted to take an integrated approach in order to recognize the three pillars of sustainable development through their national sustainable development strategies, and through their efforts to mainstream sustainable development principles into sectoral strategies or reflect them in poverty reduction strategies, countries lack the tools to track progress. Hence, the specific institutional and administrative arrangements in place for the implementation of such country policies and strategies must be strengthened with appropriate monitoring and evaluation tools and systems for self-monitoring and assessing progress in order to build resilient economies. In the same vein, small island developing States also face the challenges of complying with and fulfilling international reporting obligations.

13. During the preparatory process for the Five-Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy, the synthesis of national assessment reports at both the regional and global levels was faced with the challenge of a lack or absence of suitable indicators and criteria to comprehensively assess progress in addressing vulnerabilities and resilience of small island developing States through national efforts to implement the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. Accordingly, the call emerged for renewed and coordinated work to be done on methodologies for the effective assessment of the vulnerabilities and resilience of small island developing States that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development.

14. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, one of the key concerns noted by small island developing States was the need for mechanisms to enforce and support the monitoring of commitments. Related to this is the importance of the adequate collection of data and statistics for making accurate assessments and effective decision-making. Again, the situation faced by small island developing States emphasized the need for practical ways of ensuring that such data and statistics were available for all small island developing States, regardless of the size of their populations, to enhance reporting while reducing related compliance burdens. The project will build on work done by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on vulnerability assessments through a European Union-funded project that promotes the use of country vulnerability-resilience profiling for self-assessment of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. The European Union project is aimed at supporting six selected small island developing States in piloting the vulnerability-resilience country profile as a framework/methodology for self-assessment of the implementation of commitments under the Mauritius Strategy. The project promotes the establishment of processes for assessment and the strengthening of national information systems with specific indicators on sustainable development for policy coordination and learning from experience gained, and facilitates the South-South transfer of knowledge among the small island developing States regions. The vulnerability-resilience country profile analytical framework consists of an assessment of a country's vulnerabilities and its capacity to cope with these vulnerabilities in each of the thematic areas identified in the Barbados Programme of Action, as well as the cross-cutting issues that provide interlinkages between them. The vulnerability-resilience country profile also addresses the means of implementation set out in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, which would help to build the resilience of countries.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected small island developing States in monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and developing appropriate and practical responses to reduce vulnerability

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development) and subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	20.0
Consultants	117.0
Travel	108.0
Contractual services	17.0
Operating expenses	6.0
Workshops/training	320.0
Total	**588.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Increased capacity of governmental and non-governmental institutions at the national level to collect and analyse data for key indicators measuring progress, including vulnerability-resilience country profiles, towards the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and sustainable development	(IA1.1) Increased use and analysis of sustainable development indicators specific to small island developing States for reporting, analysis and planning purposes in targeted small island developing States

(EA2) Enhanced capacity of Governments to apply the findings and analysis related to the monitoring of progress towards the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies and plans, especially with regard to mitigating risks and reducing vulnerability	**(IA2.1) Increased application of the vulnerability-resilience country profile methodology for tracking progress towards the Mauritius Strategy and sustainable development planning by targeted countries**
(EA3) Increased awareness and opportunities for replication of the vulnerability-resilience country profile in other regions through the sharing of good practices and lessons learned	**(IA3.1) Increased and diversified use of the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNet) for sharing of experiences by small island developing States (measured in number of hits, posts, active discussion forums)**

Main activities

15. **The main activities of the project will include:**

(A1.1) **Conduct 2 national training workshops in each of the target countries to introduce and implement a vulnerability-resilience country profile monitoring and evaluation framework and indicators;**

(A1.2) **Provide technical advisory services (through short-term consultancies) to boost national capacity in the use of the vulnerability-resilience country profile framework and indicators;**

(A1.3) **Organize 2 interregional workshops to leverage the experience gained in the monitoring and evaluation pilot project in the Indian Ocean for the benefit of selective Atlantic and/or Caribbean countries;**

(A2.1) **Further develop the core set of country vulnerability and resilience indicators and composite indices to allow for the formulation of country-specific questions (i.e., guideposts);**

(A2.2) **Organize study tours and technical exchanges among officials of small island developing States implementing and monitoring the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy at the national level;**

(A2.3) **Conduct national workshops to assist the beneficiary countries in the further use of analysis of the assessments generated by the vulnerability-resilience country profile for policy formulation and the development of programmes for practical responses to vulnerability. The workshops will also address the links of presenting the data and analysis on SIDSNet as an effective platform for monitoring and evaluation of the Mauritius Strategy;**

(A3.1) **Populate SIDSNet with a core set of indicators generated by the vulnerability-resilience country profiles by small island developing States, and moderate communities of practice corresponding to the three pillars of sustainable development for small island developing States as they relate to the countries' self-assessments.**

D. Supporting developing countries in their transition from Millennium Development Goals-based development strategies to broader sustainable development strategies through modelling-based policy analyses

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Programme ($630,000)

Background

16. Governments of developing countries have received considerable support from the international community in assessing strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and in formulating policies to mitigate external shocks to human development. While recognizing the value of this support, these Governments have shown some concern with respect to their possibilities of achieving the Goals by 2015 and the development agenda that they will pursue after 2015, suggesting a desire to be better informed about their options when they embark on the process of defining their next national development strategy.

17. Evidence from the modelling of analyses of macroeconomic and social policies suggests that rapid progress on any set of country-specific human development goals by 2015 (including the Millennium Development Goals) will involve the significant stepping-up of public spending and require more rapid and sustained economic growth. Given existing financing constraints and the depressed world economy, accelerated human development investments would overstretch countries' public finances, with the possibility of jeopardizing badly needed economic growth. Governments therefore seem convinced that they need a deeper understanding of the medium-to-long-run payoffs of past Millennium Development Goal investments in order to determine their degree of resilience in enduring short-term macroeconomic hardships.

18. Governments are also aware of the transition from development strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals and have supported the idea of broader sustainable development strategies within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Yet this post-2015 context poses challenges. Reaching sustainable development goals will require up-front investments on an unprecedented scale. Government experts will require additional support in their careful and rigorous assessment of alternative paths in moving towards sustainable development within a coherent policy framework.

19. The project will focus on six countries that have expressed interest in working on policy modelling for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and a smooth transition towards sustainable development strategies beyond 2015, and that use policy modelling tools for scenario analyses as a result of previous or ongoing capacity development projects.[1]

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[1] At this stage, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs foresees working in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Jordan, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Uganda.

Objective of the Organization: To support government experts and policymakers in selected developing countries in assessing policy options and priorities through economy-wide and micromodelling tools in order to define a smooth transition from Millennium Development Goals-based national development strategies to a broader sustainable development strategy

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development), subprogramme 4 (Statistics) and subprogramme 6 (Development policy and analysis); Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 1 (Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development), subprogramme 2 (Social development) and subprogramme 3 (Economic development and integration); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 3 (Macroeconomic policies and growth), subprogramme 5 (Social development and equality) and subprogramme 8 (Sustainable development and human settlements); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	30.0
Consultants	255.0
Travel	198.0
Contractual services	20.0
Equipment	60.0
Workshops/training	67.0
Total	**630.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of government experts to use and adopt economy-wide and micromodelling tools for analysing coherent macroeconomic, social and environmental policies	(IA1.1) Number of government institutions that start using and continue using on a regular basis the macro/micromodelling framework as a tool to support policy decision-making
(EA2) Enhanced capacities of decision makers in six target countries to carry out assessments of coherent policy options and priorities based on modelling scenarios that help design strategies to accelerate progress towards national sustainable development strategies	(IA2.1) Number of policies, policy documents and policy dialogues that use the package of economy-wide and micromodelling tools to inform the process of designing and/or implementing sustainable development strategies

Main activities

20. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a framework for data collection and modelling tools for use by the 6 target countries and a national inception training workshop in each of the 6 target countries) to introduce the framework and modelling tools to national policy modelling teams;

(A1.2) Build up an integrated and coherent set of data on economic, social and environmental indicators linked through user-friendly interfaces that allow for flexible interaction between the data and the policy modelling tools;

(A1.3) Organize 6 national workshops to integrate a package of economy-wide macro/micromodelling tools and user-friendly interfaces for their computational implementation with country datasets, ready to be used by country modelling teams for policy analysis;

(A1.4) Organize 6 national workshops to apply the models, including by calibrating models through country-based datasets, using modelling tools and their computer interfaces, designing policy simulations, and analysing and adequately interpreting simulation results;

(A2.1) Prepare policy notes and other technical documents that easily transmit relevant policy messages and recommendations to decision makers using accessible language;

(A2.2) Organize 6 national workshops to discuss policy notes and other technical documents with government officials aimed at drawing lessons on how policy recommendations derived from modelling-based policy analyses can be transmitted to inform and influence decision-making on national development strategies.

E. Enhancing the capacity of Governments and indigenous leaders to ensure social integration and inclusive development in Africa and Asia

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($524,000)

Background

21. Indigenous people constitute 15 per cent of the world's poor and approximately one third of the world's 900 million extremely poor rural people. Yet, because they live in fragile ecosystems increasingly under threat by the commercial exploitation of natural resources and unsustainable practices, they continue to suffer discrimination, marginalization, extreme poverty and conflict. The traditional livelihoods and ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples, as stewards of a great deal of the world's biodiversity, can contribute significantly to the design and implementation of appropriate sustainable development policies and would be important partners in the planning and implementation of sustainable development.

22. The United Nations has recognized the need to address the vulnerabilities of indigenous peoples through various means. These have included, inter alia, the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration calls upon States to take appropriate measures for its implementation, including a review of existing legislation, policies and administrative programmes. Such measures will require that government officials and indigenous leaders be informed about the Declaration and related international instruments, and that practical measures be taken for its implementation, such as the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate the participation of those two groups.

23. Currently, such participatory mechanisms are often lacking, contributing to the risk of tensions between indigenous peoples and Governments. Indigenous leaders, on the one hand, tend to be effective activists at the local and national levels, yet lack the skills necessary to effectively engage in constructive dialogue with Governments. The general public and government officials, on the other, lack awareness of indigenous peoples' rights, leading to limited capacity to engage with them and civil society in general.

24. Building on previous experience with training programmes, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs proposes training modules that bring indigenous leaders and government officials together as one possible way to move forward with respect to the implementation of the Declaration and related instruments. Building on such training, the project envisions the

organization of policy dialogues between indigenous leaders and government officials that will lead to the development of strategies and initiatives for the implementation of the Declaration. These capacity development efforts will be focused on selected countries that have significant indigenous populations, organized in some form, and on Governments that recognize the need for the cooperative implementation of the Declaration. The project will focus on the Asia-Pacific region, which is home to about 70 per cent of the world's indigenous people, yet reflects limited political participation and representation of indigenous peoples in national legislative processes, and on Africa, where indigenous peoples' collective claims to land and natural resources are denied as a result of similarly limited recognition. The project will place a strong emphasis on indigenous youth and women. It will be implemented in close cooperation with ESCWA and ESCAP, as well as United Nations country teams.

Objective of the Organization: To promote social integration and inclusive development in national programmes and policies based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in four selected countries in Africa and Asia

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 2 (Social policy and development); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 10 (Social development); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 6 (Social development); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	178.0
Travel	84.0
Contractual services	20.0
Operating expenses	2.0
Workshops/training	240.0
Total	**524.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of local and national governments and indigenous leaders to develop policies and programmes that ensure social integration and inclusive development in selected target countries	(IA1.1) Initiatives/measures taken by officials and indigenous leaders trained under the project to promote/implement the rights of indigenous people
(EA2) Establishment of consultative mechanisms among government representatives and representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations that contribute to legal frameworks, policies and administrative programmes that promote and implement the rights of indigenous people	(IA2.1) Number of consultative processes/ mechanisms established at the local, national or regional level that include indigenous peoples and their representatives in decision-making on matters that affect their well-being

Main activities

25. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Adapt to national specificities and translate existing training modules for indigenous leaders and government officials on the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including in particular on consensus-building, constructive dialogue and the basics of development planning;

(A1.2) Organize a national and a local training workshop using the training modules developed;

(A1.3) Assess the legal, policy and administrative situations of indigenous peoples in each of the four selected countries, with recommendations to address gaps;

(A1.4) Facilitate and provide substantive advice for the drafting of legislative, policy and administrative measures at the national or local level to implement the principles set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(A2.1) Organize multi-stakeholder meetings (government officials (i.e., of legislative bodies, local governments, executive agencies), indigenous peoples and relevant partners) to consider proposals contained in the assessment, leading to the establishment of consultative mechanisms at the national and local levels;

(A2.2) Organize a national workshop to review and assess the progress made and to promote continued dialogue between indigenous leaders and government officials;

(A2.3) Organize a special event at United Nations Headquarters during an annual session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, sharing the findings and lessons learned with Member States, United Nations entities and indigenous peoples' organizations.

F. Strengthening the capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively produce and use population data in policymaking for sustainable development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($588,000)

Background

26. The evidence-based formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and strategies aimed at sustainable, equitable and inclusive development require reliable and up-to-date key demographic data and indicators. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), world leaders reaffirmed the importance of population trends and projections in development strategies and policies and the need for Governments to strengthen their national capacity to carry out sustained and comprehensive programmes on the collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization of population data.

27. The challenges posed by the growth in the global population (expected to reach 9 billion by 2050) and rapidly changing population dynamics (including low fertility, ageing and international and internal migration) are manifold and require increased capacity in countries to produce and analyse the necessary population data.

28. The survey conducted by the Population Division in 2008-2009 assessing countries' demands for development cooperation with respect to field population estimates and projections provided evidence of the limited capacity of the national statistical offices of many developing countries to produce reliable estimates of key demographic indicators and to generate timely and sufficiently detailed population projections for use in development planning. Given that demographic data and indicators are not only essential to assess progress towards specific development goals, but also components of almost all other development indicators, the urgency of strengthening national capacity in this area is evident. The Population Division has maintained a constant dialogue with experts in national statistical offices to address their requests for technical assistance and clarifications regarding methodological issues in relation to population data. Many countries have repeatedly expressed their need and interest with respect to participating in training programmes in

order to produce their own estimates, including Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. In addition, several countries have explicitly requested the assistance of experts from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the production of population estimates and projections.

29. The project is aimed at building capacity in countries to produce, analyse and utilize population estimates and projections. It will also address the analysis and dissemination of population data through training on and the use of information technology tools and platforms. Countries will participate in training activities based on their demand for and capacity to produce the data necessary for population estimates and projections. Ad hoc missions will be carried out to a smaller group of countries in which statistical capacity is less developed, in order to provide more extensive training to several staff of the National Statistical Office. A larger number of countries will participate in the training workshops.

30. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the Statistics Division, which will ensure assistance in maintaining a continuous dialogue with National Statistical Offices and in providing any necessary follow-up, and in consultation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In addition, the training materials and other guidelines will be available online, together with other tools to be developed by the Population Division that will provide access to empirical data used in population estimates and to a full description of the estimation and projection process.

Objective of the Organization: To support the integration of issues related to population dynamics, including high fertility and population growth, low fertility, ageing and migration, into development policies and strategies in selected target countries in sub-Saharan Africa by improving the availability and use of key population data and indicators

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 4 (Statistics) and subprogramme 5 (Population); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	29.4
Consultants	164.0
Travel	120.2
Contractual services	30.0
Operating expenses	3.0
Workshops/training	241.4
Total	**588.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Increased capacity of National Statistical Offices of the selected countries to produce population estimates and projections	(IA1.1) Increased number of countries producing population estimates and projections based on their national data sources
(EA2) Improved dissemination of population data and increased use of demographic data and indicators in evidence-based policymaking	(IA2.1) Increased use of demographic data in the national and regional formulation of policies and strategies in 16 selected countries, as reflected in national development strategies and national and regional monitoring reports

Main activities

31. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop background and training materials on the production of population estimates and projections;

(A1.2) Organize and conduct 2 subregional training workshops on the production and use of population data, with a focus on the review of existing data sources and their use for the production of estimates (one for Francophone countries and one for Anglophone countries);

(A1.3) Organize and conduct 2 subregional training workshops on the production of population estimates and projections, including a review of the work done based on the first round of workshops;

(A1.4) Organize study tours for countries with less advanced statistical systems, to more advanced countries to create opportunities for the learning of best practices and the sharing of experiences;

(A2.1) Develop background and training materials on the production and use of population data and indicators;

(A2.2) Organize and conduct 2 subregional training workshops on the use of population data and indicators to improve evidence-based policy and programme formulation;

(A2.3) Provide technical assistance for selected countries on the production of population data and indicators in order to improve the availability and utilization of population data, including by policymakers.

G. Strengthening the capacities of selected developing countries to design national strategies for sustainable development through participatory approaches, building on the national voluntary presentations in the Economic and Social Council

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($395,800)

Background

32. The centrality of the Economic and Social Council to national sustainable development strategies was recently affirmed in "The future we want". Through its annual ministerial review, the Council supports Member States in the review and assessment of their national development strategies and in effective follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The annual ministerial review is divided into three interlinked review processes, organized at the national, regional and global levels.

33. National voluntary presentations represent the national-level review segment of the annual ministerial review, during which a subset of individual Member States volunteer to present their progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Countries making presentations focus on their main successes and most urgent challenges. They highlight what has been done to address constraints and how the international community can best plan its support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the pursuit of sustainable development. The national voluntary presentation process entails: (a) a multi-stakeholder review at the national level; (b) the production of a national report; and (c) a presentation in the Economic and Social Council to the international community.

34. Countries making national voluntary presentations are also increasingly encouraged to participate in the regional and global dimensions of the annual ministerial review. Four regional preparatory

meetings are held in the lead-up to the global, high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council. Regional meetings are expected to be focused on the specific priorities for each region pertaining to the theme of the annual ministerial review. They seek to promote the sharing of experiences by the presenting countries in each region with other key development stakeholders in order to build regional capacities and strengthen regional networks for problem-solving.

35. National voluntary presentation assessments have enabled Governments, in some instances for the first time, to better align their national development strategies with the internationally agreed development goals. They also offer Governments the opportunity to ensure that national strategies for sustainable development are more accountable, comprehensive and effective owing to the participatory inputs of non-governmental development partners in the policy design and assessment phases. However, integrating economic, social and environmental considerations, enhancing the participation of non-governmental actors and incorporating the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council into national development strategies, especially those derived from national voluntary presentations and the annual ministerial review, remains a significant challenge for many countries.

36. The project is aimed at addressing these challenges, building on previous and ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity-building potential of the national voluntary presentation process, as well as other projects led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The project will link national voluntary presentation countries to the regional and global dimensions of the annual ministerial review, as well as provide a follow-up review the following year to assess progress on national development strategies for sustainable development.

37. The target countries will be six developing countries that volunteer to participate in the national voluntary presentation process. Once those countries have been identified, the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination will involve the United Nations resident coordinator system in the countries concerned and the agencies working on the theme of the annual ministerial review (e.g., UNEP, the International Labour Organization (ILO), etc.). National planning authorities, other line ministries, statistical offices, academic institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, think tanks and national chambers of commerce, as well as the regional commissions to which the target countries belong, will be key partners of the project.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of planning ministries and non-governmental actors in selected developing countries to assess, design and update national development strategies for sustainable development, involving participatory processes

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 1 (Economic and social council support and coordination) and subprogramme 6 (Development policy and analysis); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	158.8
Travel	117.0
Workshops/training	120.0
Total	**395.8**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Improved assessment by selected Member States of development progress, as well as identification of new and emerging development challenges and priorities for a post-2015 United Nations development agenda	(IA1.1) Number of national voluntary presentation country reports that recognize the challenges and indicate ways forward on the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development
(EA2) Enhanced capacity of national voluntary presentation countries to integrate Economic and Social Council recommendations into their national development strategies in a participatory manner	(IA2.1) Number of national development strategies and plans among selected countries that integrate Economic and Social Council policy recommendations

Main activities

38. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize multi-stakeholder national dialogues in national voluntary presentation countries to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals and define development challenges and national priorities beyond 2015;

(A1.2) Organize regional annual ministerial review workshops for government officials from developing countries;

(A1.3) Organize annual ministerial review and regional meetings of non-governmental stakeholders;

(A2.1) Assess progress made regarding countries that made national voluntary presentations the previous year and formulate follow-up adjustments to national strategies for sustainable development and the use of participatory approaches in development dialogue and decision-making at the national level;

(A2.2) Provide multidisciplinary technical advisory services to countries making national voluntary presentations to assist in formulating effective follow-up policies and strategies aimed at the achievement of national development goals (advisory services would be provided by staff of Department of Economic and Social Affairs divisions and by national consultants).

H. Strengthening the capacities of developing countries to provide access to development information through open government data

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme ($592,000)

Background

39. Data are the new raw material of the twenty-first century. The availability of data is the key to the identification of development opportunities and policy decision-making. Providing access to government data allows for the more efficient use of resources and the improvement of service

delivery for citizens. The effects of this are potentially far-reaching for sustainable development: innovation, transparency, accountability, participatory governance and economic growth. For example, the opening up of data in some countries revealed that some Governments were being charged much higher amounts, up to 25 times more, for the same medicines. The findings enabled Governments to exert pressure on pharmaceutical companies to reduce the prices. While much progress has been made in recent years in terms of the level of the accessibility and use of government data in developed countries, developing countries have not made as much progress. They need support in raising awareness, increasing capacities and providing technical assistance in the implementation of open government data policies and platforms.

40. The project is a logical follow-up to several of the current activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs relating to open government data and e-participation, which are focused on institutional mechanisms and frameworks to engage citizens and civil society for development. In 2012, the Department, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union, organized a capacity development workshop in Geneva on open government data and citizen engagement. A subsequent workshop, focused on the use of data for transparency, accountability and collaboration, was co-organized with the Centre for Public Service Innovation of South Africa in October 2012. At these events, participants from countries including Egypt, Jordan and Kenya discussed the need for open government data policies, platforms and capacity development. In this context, the proposed project fills an important gap by introducing to stakeholders new products and services that can be utilized in publishing and analysing government data. By using multiple media, including online platforms and face-to-face seminars, it will build capacities in a selected number of developing countries.

41. The analysis of existing experience and the development of pilots on the know-how, challenges and real benefits related to open government data provide additional input to capacity-building. Currently, a few measurement frameworks exist that assess the level of open government data development. In the next version of the United Nations e-government survey, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will include the open data index as part of the United Nations e-government development index.

42. A pool of 15 countries[2] will be selected on the basis of their level of open government data development, including the availability of their policy and legislation regarding access to government information and data privacy, the existence of an organizational framework such as information privacy commissioners and national archives, and the presence of channels and modalities such as open government data catalogues. Of these countries, four with especially lower levels of experience will be chosen as pilot countries to benefit from direct training and advisory services in implementing open government data. Lessons learned by the pilot countries will be disseminated in workshops and online training to all 15 countries in the pool.

43. The project will assist the target countries in the development of an open data strategy, the establishment of an open data community, open data development, the deployment of an open data platform (website) and the monitoring and evaluation of the open data initiative. Pilot actions and their thematic policy focus will be developed in partnership with national partners. Priority will be placed on thematic areas relevant to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. These will include public expenditure and budgeting data, environmental data, procurement data, demographic data, socioeconomic indicators, health-care data, geographical data and local transportation data.

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[2] Provisional list for the project: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Qatar, Seychelles, South Africa, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacities of the Governments of target countries to provide the policy framework and the technical infrastructure for the implementation of the open government data concept

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 7 (Public administration and development management); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	84.0
Travel	80.0
Contractual services	159.0
Operating expenses	4.0
Workshops/training	265.0
Total	**592.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased capacity of senior government officials to formulate policies to develop open government data, in consultation with relevant civil society stakeholders	(IA1.1) Increased number of policies and legislative initiatives in the area of open government data adopted and operational
(EA2) Enhanced technical capacity of the Governments of four target countries to develop and sustain open government data platforms and applications that utilize government data, in accordance with established policy frameworks	(IA2.1) Increase in the availability of government data to the public on open government data sites

Main activities

44. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize an international capacity-building workshop for public administration officials and other civil society and information technology entrepreneurial beneficiaries of the pool of 15 countries on principles and an overview of existing open government data policies, initiatives and partnerships throughout the world;

(A1.2) Design and establish 3 online training courses on open government data for the developers and users of such data;

(A1.3) Organize an international capacity-building workshop for public administration officials and other aforementioned beneficiaries of the pool of 15 countries involved in the project; share the experiences resulting from the 4 pilots and the online training courses;

(A2.1) Organize national capacity-building workshops and other advisory services for the development and launch of development-oriented open government data initiatives at the national or subnational level in 4 pilot countries;

(A2.2) Provide a technical platform for the exchange of open government data through the customization of a prototype, complemented by advisory services.

I. Strengthening the capacities of selected developing countries for effective subnational development policy formulation and planning towards sustainable development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies ($639,000)

Background

45. In "The future we want", world leaders underlined the need for more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national, subnational and local levels as appropriate, and to that end called upon countries to strengthen national, subnational and/or local institutions or relevant multi-stakeholder bodies and processes, as appropriate, dealing with sustainable development, including to coordinate on matters of sustainable development and to enable effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

46. The project is focused on integrated regional and subnational development planning and management, as a powerful multidisciplinary instrument, to effectively address poverty and urban and rural linkages and promote a balanced distribution of population and economic activities in a spatial context to attain equity and social cohesion. It also promotes participatory planning, the efficient organization of space and the more effective incorporation of environmental and disaster risk management considerations (including climate change) in an integrated manner with the other sectors of territorial development (including transport, housing, basic and social services, energy, water and the economy). However, the emphasis on the local and regional levels is not intended to undermine the role of national-level policies in the development process, which provide the overall framework for local- and regional-level policies.

47. Many developing countries have embarked on regional and territorial development policies to define resource allocation and address deep-rooted regional and social inequalities, poverty and sustainability. However, the effective implementation of regional and territorial development policies requires responsive institutions and skilled manpower, which are often lacking in developing countries. In this regard, there is demand for institutional and technical capacity-building to enable developing countries to design and implement effective regional policies and programmes, undertake planning and establish appropriate instruments at the national and regional levels in order to effectively integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development and to achieve equity, efficiency and sustainability.

48. The project is aimed at building technical and institutional capacity in the target countries to enhance policymaking at the national and subnational levels for integrated regional development planning and management processes, and at promoting coherent integrated planning and decision-making at the different levels of government to attain sustainable development and human security, including disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change. This also involves the establishment of relevant indicators to measure sustainable development progress/setbacks at the regional level. In addition, the project will, under a South-South cooperation scheme, facilitate networking among target countries and regions, particularly among local and regional governments.

49. The project will work with four countries that have already begun to implement development planning at the local or regional level. The proposed countries are Ghana and Kenya, in Africa, and Colombia and Peru, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of national and subnational governments in selected developing countries to enhance regional development policy design and integrated regional development planning and management for sustainable development

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development) and subprogramme 9 (Financing for development); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	139.0
Travel	95.0
Contractual services	45.0
Operating expenses	6.0
Equipment	6.0
Workshops/training	348.0
Total	**639.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Improved capacity of selected national and subnational governments to formulate and develop tools for regional development planning and management	(IA1.1) Number of planners and subnational government officials trained and formulating or implementing regional development plans
	(IA1.2) Number of subnational governments with improved policy strategy documents/ legislation reflecting integrated regional development planning and management
(EA2) Improved institutional and technical capacity of subnational governments to foster sustainable integrated regional development	(IA2.1) Number of subnational governments indicating increased institutional and technical capacity

Main activities

50. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop research on relevant experience and prepare one preliminary assessment from each target country on policy development and regional planning and management for sustainable development;

(A1.2) Organize subnational workshops in the target countries to: (a) strengthen institutional capacity; (b) generate programmes, action plans and policies to foster sustainable integrated regional development; (c) hold multi-stakeholder meetings for buy-in and development; and (d) address specific key issues identified above;

(A1.3) Organize national workshops in the target countries to generate concrete strategic action plans or specific policies to address the key issues in each area;

(A2.1) Organize subnational workshops in the target countries to strengthen the institutional capacity of subnational governments to adjust and implement regional development plans in accordance with the national strategic framework;

(A2.2) Build an interactive knowledge platform (web-based) aimed at meeting the broad need for the dissemination and sharing of information among interested and/or participating regions. The platform should be continuously updated with relevant information and experiences in the area of integrated regional development management for sustainable development, from various sources. In addition, make available essential learning materials prepared for and resulting from the workshops, through a documentation centre that forms part of the website;

(A2.3) Present the findings of the target countries at a relevant high-level forum on sustainable development to share lessons learned among developing countries.

J. Strengthening national capacities to develop national action plans to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($413,000)

Background

51. Forests cover one third of the world's land area, constituting the largest terrestrial ecosystem. They provide a wide range of economic, social, cultural and environmental services. More than 1.6 billion people depend to varying degrees on forests for their livelihood and use forest resources for fuel, timber, food, medicine and income. Finding ways to ensure that forests benefit present and future generations is the essence of sustainable forest management.

52. In 2007, the adoption of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) by the General Assembly was a turning point in the history of the global policy debate on forests. The forest instrument reinforced the global commitment to sustainable forest management as the overarching principle for forest policy at both the national and international levels. In spite of its non-legally binding nature, the forest instrument is considered the first ever global agreement that presents a set of concrete actions at all levels with timelines. Many provisions of the instrument call for the development of national policies and measures, as well as international cooperation to advance the implementation of sustainable forest management.

53. Lack of national plans for the implementation of the forest instrument has hindered the efforts of countries to efficiently promote sustainable forest management at the national level. The absence of national action plans has also led to wide disparities among countries in terms of implementing the forest instrument, as well as to its partial implementation. In response to requests made by countries, the project is designed to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in addressing these problems, through the development of national action plans for six pilot countries.

54. The results of this work will then be shared through two interregional workshops, and at relevant side events with 36 additional countries to maximize the application of the national action plans. These countries will be selected according to diversity-related criteria (such as forest cover and the presence of an established forest policy), as well as the progress made in each of the countries by other forest-related United Nations agencies and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Objective of the Organization: To increase the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop national action plans to advance the implementation of the forest instrument

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 8 (Sustainable forest management); Millennium Development Goals 1, 3, 7 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	34.7
Consultants	118.0
Travel	40.0
Workshops/training	220.3
Total	**413.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) National action plans developed and adopted in six selected pilot developing countries and countries with economies in transition to advance the implementation of the forest instrument, achieve the four global objectives on forests and promote sustainable forest management	(IA1.1) Number of national action plans designed and completed in targeted developing countries
(EA2) Enhanced capacities of relevant policymakers in other developing countries and countries with economies in transition to use or develop similar national action plans to advance the implementation of the forest instrument, achieve the global objectives on forests and promote sustainable forest management	(IA2.1) Number of Governments that undertake steps to use or develop national action plans for the implementation of the forest instrument

Main activities

55. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Analyse cross-cutting elements, as well as country-specific elements for inclusion in national action plans, and prepare a draft plan for the organization of the two interregional workshops as well as side events;

(A1.2) Organize, in each of the 6 pilot countries, a participatory process to map stakeholders and their responsibilities, and reviews of existing relevant studies and documents to collect information necessary for the action plans;

(A1.3) Prepare draft national action plans and establish national groups of stakeholders to review them, ensuring that they complement existing plans on the matter;

(A2.1) Organize 2 interregional workshops for additional developing countries building on the pilot countries' experience, to enable them to develop their own national action plans.

K. Building the capacity of policymakers in developing countries to address regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme ($588,000)

Background

56. The UNCTAD initiative in the field of sovereign debt has revealed that policymakers in some developing countries need technical assistance to improve their regulatory and institutional settings with respect to sovereign lending and borrowing. Issues relating to poor governance stemming from a lack of transparency and unclear responsibilities in the debt contracting process are generally at the heart of the problem.

57. At the end of 2009, UNCTAD launched an initiative to promote responsible sovereign lending and borrowing. In cooperation with an expert group composed of world-renowned professionals and academics in the area of debt and development finance, UNCTAD has successfully formulated a set of principles to guide responsible sovereign lending and borrowing practices. The principles are intended to establish clear responsibilities on the part of both borrowers and lenders with the aim of reducing the prevalence of sovereign debt crises and promoting sustained economic growth. The principles have been broadly welcomed by Member States and other stakeholders, including the Paris Club, multilateral financial institutions and civil society. In addition, the principles have begun to receive public endorsements from Member States, which thus far include 13 countries at varying levels of economic development.

58. During the consultations with Member States leading up to the endorsement process, it became evident that certain countries would require assistance in designing and/or adapting their regulatory (and institutional) frameworks for the implementation of the responsible practices outlined in the principles. Some of the countries enquired whether UNCTAD would be able to provide additional assistance in this matter.

59. The goal of the project is to increase the capacity of policymakers at the regulatory and political levels to design and implement policies that foster responsible practices in the field of sovereign debt governance through the adaptation of their regulatory and institutional frameworks. The tentative list of beneficiary countries includes the countries that have provided official support for the UNCTAD principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing and have requested technical assistance. The list tentatively includes Gabon, Honduras (or Colombia), Indonesia (or the Philippines), Morocco and Nepal.

60. The project will build on existing relationships with regional banks (e.g., the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank) and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to obtain assistance with the organization of workshops at the regional level. In addition, the partners will provide inputs such as contacts, technical support and background documents.

Objective of the Organization: To improve the capacity of selected countries to design, adapt and implement institutional and regulatory frameworks that foster responsible practices in the field of sovereign debt governance **Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals**: Trade and development subprogramme 1 (Globalization, interdependence and development); Millennium Development Goal 8	**Summary budget** **(Thousands of United States dollars)**	
	General temporary assistance	22.5
	Consultants	134.6
	Expert group meeting	40.0
	Travel	64.0
	Contractual services	15.6
	Operating expenses	10.3
	Workshops/training	301.0
	Total	**588.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Improved understanding and capacity of policymakers in beneficiary countries for the identification of regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance	(IA1.1) Increased agreement among policymakers in beneficiary countries regarding the regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance as identified through the diagnostic assessment framework
(EA2) Improved capacity of beneficiary countries to address the regulatory and institutional gaps identified in the field of sovereign debt governance, through policies and instruments on responsible lending and borrowing	(IA2.1) Increased number of policy options and instruments designed to fill the regulatory and institutional gaps identified in the field of sovereign debt governance

Main activities

61. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize an expert group meeting to provide input on a methodology for a diagnostic assessment framework to identify regulatory and institutional gaps;

(A1.2) Organize a diagnostic assessment workshop for five beneficiary countries on institutional and regulatory settings on the basis of the diagnostic assessment framework;

(A1.3) Design and compile a database allowing for comparative analyses of the diagnostic assessment. The database will be used by beneficiary countries to see how they progress in their implementation of the principles. It should act as a benchmark and should therefore encourage policymakers to use the instruments and policy options suggested at the workshop;

(A2.1) Organize a capacity-building workshop with the group of beneficiary countries, focused on options for improving regulatory and institutional frameworks, in line with responsible practices of sovereign lending and borrowing;

(A2.2) Organize a study tour for staff of the relevant ministries of beneficiary countries to other countries with more advanced regulatory and institutional settings in the field of sovereign debt governance. The lessons learned as a result of the tour should be included in the synthesis report described below;

(A2.3) Prepare a synthesis report on the policies and measures adopted by beneficiary countries following the workshops. The report will contain recommendations that should be useful for other countries.

L. Supporting Member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through national sustainable product export reviews

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($590,000)

Background

62. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, world leaders recognized that the transitions made by countries to a green economy could make increasing contributions to sustainable development and poverty eradication through economic diversification, employment creation, export earnings, environmental protection and social equity. Sustainable products (internationally traded goods and services that are sustainably produced and promote sustainable consumption) offer considerable export opportunities for developing countries. They include a variety of green goods and services, including renewable energy systems, energy-efficient light bulbs, organic food, natural cosmetic ingredients, sustainably harvested forestry and fishery products, recycling services, green construction materials, environmental consulting and ecotourism. And because many sustainable products are produced in rural areas and require lower-skill workers, including women and young people, their production can contribute significantly to environmental protection, the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, economic diversification, job creation and poverty reduction in economically marginalized rural areas of developing countries.

63. In order to seize these new opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth, developing countries need strengthened capacity to identify their production and export strengths in terms of sustainable products and to put into place the national policies, regulations and institutions needed to create an enabling environment for their production and export. Yet, for most developing countries, particularly least developed countries, there are significant gaps in awareness of, and cooperation on, national production and export opportunities in sustainable product sectors among national policymakers and other stakeholders.

64. The UNCTAD national sustainable product export reviews are aimed at filling these gaps through results-oriented capacity-building activities to assist interested developing countries[3] in devising national strategies and action plans to advance sustainable product export development. The reviews are a central component of the UNCTAD response to the call made in "The future we want" for capacity-building and of the Conference's 2012 Doha Mandate, which calls for capacity-building to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. Using the product space methodology of UNCTAD, stakeholders will identify promising sustainable product sectors for production and export and make policy recommendations aimed at creating an enabling business environment for the selected sectors. To ensure a results-oriented impact, each national sustainable product export review will require stakeholders to produce an action plan for the implementation of their recommendations. Upon the completion of national sustainable product export reviews, UNCTAD will continue to maintain liaison with relevant government ministries to monitor the

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[3] To date, several Member States have expressed interest in implementing a national sustainable product export review: Angola, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, South Africa, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

implementation of action plans and to link ministries to bilateral and international development partners for cooperation on such implementation.

65. Reports derived from the national sustainable product export reviews will be published and disseminated by UNCTAD. At the national level, reports will provide sectoral analyses and insights for policymakers and trade negotiators in order to assist them with the future development of policy and of regulatory, institutional and trade policy regimes. At the international level, intergovernmental forums organized in Geneva for the review of national reports will provide opportunities for the sharing among countries of success stories and lessons learned.

Objective of the Organization: To improve the ability of public and private stakeholders in developing countries (government officials and decision makers from business and civil society) to build national productive and export capacity in the area of sustainable products

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Trade and development subprogramme 3 (International trade); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	33.0
Consultants	163.0
Travel	128.0
Contractual services	40.0
Operating expenses	2.0
Workshops/training	224.0
Total	**590.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Improved capacity of public and private stakeholders to identify and select sectors for the national production and export of green/ sustainable products	(IA1.1) Increased number of sustainable product sectors identified and selected for national production and export by national stakeholders
(EA2) Improved capacity of public and private stakeholders to assess the policy, regulatory and institutional requirements for supporting the development of selected sustainable product sectors	(IA2.1) Increased number of reforms and options for strengthening the sectoral policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks of selected sustainable product sectors proposed by national stakeholders
(EA3) Improved capacity of public and private stakeholders to prepare and adopt recommendations and action plans for building productive and export capacity in selected sustainable product sectors	(IA3.1) Increased number of recommendations, action plans and timetables for actions to advance the sectoral development of the selected sustainable product sectors prepared and adopted by national stakeholders

Main activities

66. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Prepare analytical UNCTAD reports reviewing sustainable product sectors and national options for their further development;

(A1.2) Convene a first round of national stakeholder workshops to train participants to identify promising sustainable product sectors on the basis of country-specific results generated by the UNCTAD product space methodology referred to above; uncover national and global market opportunities; identify barriers to production and export; and select sectors and products as the focus of further study;

(A2.1) Prepare, including through extensive stakeholder consultations, national team reports on the costs and benefits of varied policy options to support selected sustainable product sectors. The national reports will support discussions in the second round of national stakeholder workshops described below;

(A3.1) Convene a second round of national stakeholder workshops to evaluate national policy options, make sectoral recommendations and formulate action plans for sectoral development;

(A3.2) Prepare and publish national sustainable product export review reports that include national stakeholders' recommendations and the national action plans developed during the second round of national stakeholder workshops;

(A3.3) Convene an intergovernmental forum in Geneva for United Nations delegations, interested non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies to review national reports and progress in the implementation of action plans. On the basis of the forum proceedings, UNCTAD will prepare a synthesis of best practices with recommendations that could be useful for other countries seeking to advance the development of their own green sectors.

M. Building the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($596,000)

Background

67. Fisheries constitute a sector that holds considerable potential for the diversification and development of the economies of least developed countries. UNCTAD has identified fish and fishery products as among the most important dynamic commodity products for least developed countries, with respect to which several least developed countries have comparative advantages. In addition, the fishing industry has strong linkages to the rest of the economy and generates employment opportunities. The fishery sector is also important in terms of improving food security and achieving environmental sustainability.

68. Notwithstanding the importance of the sector (in 14 of the 48 least developed countries, fish exports are ranked among the top five merchandise exports), it is often underdeveloped and unexploited. While traditional supply-side problems persist in countries covered by the project, international standards are among the key demand-side constraints undermining the fish sectors of several least developed countries. International standards — mandatory and voluntary, private (industry) or public — are mushrooming, posing considerable challenges for least developed countries in unlocking their export potential. In principle, countries resort to imposing mandatory standards to ensure that imported products conform to standards deemed necessary for the protection of the health and safety of their people or for the preservation of their environment. Countries also require that imported agricultural and fishery products comply with their national sanitary and phytosanitary measure regulations, with the primary aim of protecting human, animal or plant life or health from diseases that may be brought in with imported agricultural products.

The project is intended to upgrade technical knowledge and expertise in beneficiary countries in order to overcome challenges posed by international standards relating to fish exports. It will also involve the investigation of how international standards, regulations and measures in the areas of fish and fishery products affect the exports and international competitiveness of least developed countries. Finally, it will include the recommendation of policies and strategies for implementation with a view to improving capacity to comply with international standards and enhancing the capacities of least developed countries to develop and diversify their exports by tapping their fishery potential. This is particularly important because stringent requirements in importing countries continue to undermine exports of fish and fish products, which in turn limits the export baskets of several least developed countries to a few primary commodities.

69. Under the project, work is planned in five least developed countries: tentatively, Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Comoros, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Those countries have been requesting technical assistance, including through their respective national statements to the Trade and Development Board aimed at addressing the impact of international standards on their fisheries exports. The main beneficiaries of the project will include fishers, fish processors, packaging agencies, fish exporters and associations and relevant government agencies (e.g., ministries of trade and national standards agencies). The targeting of both private and public sector actors involved in the fishery sector is conducive to coordination among various stakeholders in pursuing the upgrading and diversification of fish exports. The target markets to be examined include primarily the European Union and the United States of America, as those two markets have stringent food safety requirements and environmental standards. In the developing regions, efforts will also be made to examine the impact of national standards on fish imports, with a special emphasis on China, whose fish imports from least developed countries have been growing continuously in recent years.

70. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ECA, ESCAP and the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands. UNCTAD and the Institute will be lead organizations in implementing the project, whereas ECA and ESCAP will provide technical and substantive support for the implementation of the project, drawing on their regional expertise.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of private and public stakeholders in selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports, including by improving sanitary and phytosanitary standards

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Trade and development subprogramme 5 (Africa, least developed countries and special programmes); Millennium Development Goals 1, 7 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	30.0
Consultants	96.0
Expert group meeting	120.0
Travel	60.0
Contractual services	5.0
Operating expenses	5.0
Workshops/training	280.0
Total	**596.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Increased expertise and technical knowledge of Governments to formulate and implement export development and diversification strategies to tap fishery potential existing in selected least developed countries	(IA1.1) Policies and strategies to upgrade and/or diversify the fish sector adopted in each of the selected least developed countries

(EA2) Increased expertise and knowledge of Governments and the private sector in selected least developed countries regarding international standards with a view to improving national food safety standards	(IA2.1) Policies aimed at improving national standards to facilitate compliance with international standards adopted in each of the selected least developed countries
(EA3) Improved capacity of Governments and the private sector in selected least developed countries to upgrade standards and comply with international food safety and related sanitary and phytosanitary standards	(IA3.1) Recommendations to improve the capacity of Governments and the private sector to formulate and implement policies and strategies to comply with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards drafted in each of the selected least developed countries

Main activities

71. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Undertake policy-oriented research and analysis on export development and diversification with a view to drawing lessons from successful experiences and best practices, in order to improve policies geared towards tapping the fish potential existing in countries covered by the project;

(A1.2) Organize 5 meetings of experts (one in each participating country) on ways and means of addressing the challenges facing each country in formulating and implementing export development and diversification policies and strategies from the private and public sectors as well as from civil society and academia. Participants will be drawn from private and public institutions, civil society and academia and will include fishers, fish processors, packaging agencies, fish exporters and associations and relevant government agencies;

(A2.1) Prepare background material for training on improving national standards and complying with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards;

(A2.2) Organize 5 national training workshops to train participants from various fish industry operators in countries covered by the project to sustainably address the challenges of meeting international standards in the area of fish exports. National experts with specific knowledge about trade and development challenges, including with respect to international standards, will learn about the most important challenges, opportunities and potential in fishery exports;

(A3.1) Organize an interregional training workshop bringing together experts from Asian and African least developed countries participating in the project. The workshop will address ways and means of harmonizing national standards within a given region and how these will maximize the trade and export potential of fish and fishery products. The training will also help to disseminate the results and findings of the project in 5 project countries and 10 other least developed countries while assisting in promoting the exchange of successful experiences and best practices as well as in networking;

(A3.2) Develop an operational tool/manual on improving national food safety or sanitary standards to assist stakeholders in upgrading national standards and improving compliance with the requirements set out in international standards, other private or industry standards and related measures and regulations;

(A3.3) Organize a study tour for experts from the five beneficiary countries to enable them to receive hands-on training from selected standards organizations or fish exporting industries in other, more advanced developing countries.

N. Strengthening the capacities of policymakers to assess the implications of non-tariff measures in international trade and formulate appropriate policy responses

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the regional commissions ($620,000)

Background

72. Many developing countries have greatly benefited from integration into the global economy through trade in goods and services. Their integration into international markets was made possible through appropriate, conducive policies such as tariff liberalization, as well as initiatives related to trade facilitation and aid for trade. Today, deeper integration into the global economy depends not only on those supportive policies, but also, and increasingly, on policy responses to various forms of complex non-tariff measures such as standards, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements and behind-the-border regulations.

73. The rise in the use of these policy instruments has led to a significant knowledge gap in terms of understanding the economic effects of such policies and their implications for sustainable development. Policymakers in developing countries need a comprehensive understanding of how non-tariff measures can affect their export potential and of how to design appropriate policy responses. Although the use of non-tariff measures is often legitimate in addressing growing non-trade concerns (i.e., environmental and consumer protection), their use can also be driven by protectionist intentions, with important discriminatory and restrictive effects for the exports of developing countries. In spite of the increasing importance of non-tariff measures in regulating international trade, the degree of their prevalence and use remains largely unknown. The currently available data on such measures are outdated and incomplete.

74. There is a pressing need for a renewed effort to collect and disseminate accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date data, as well as to analyse those data in order to gain a better understanding of the implications of non-tariff measures for international trade, economic growth and sustainable development. Member States are increasingly aware of the critical importance of addressing non-tariff measures with a view to a successful, export-led development strategy. Several developing countries and their regional integration organizations have included non-tariff measures among their top priorities and requested UNCTAD to assist them in classifying and collecting data on such measures (through the establishment of a common data repository and the upgrading of national/regional databases), creating special analytical tools to assess the impacts of non-tariff measures and formulating appropriate policy responses. The overall purpose of the project is to address this knowledge gap by identifying and assessing the impacts of specific non-tariff measures that may restrain the integration of developing countries into the global economy. The project is also intended to produce analytical studies focusing on the impacts of non-tariff measures (such as technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, price control measures, contingency protection measures and rules of origin). The studies are to be summarized in a report so as to provide practical policy guidance, with focus placed on the market access perspective, regional integration strategies and trade negotiations.

75. Beneficiaries of the project are policymakers and other government officials, trade policy researchers and other relevant stakeholders in all Member States. Moreover, the project is aimed at building capacity, focusing on three geographical areas covering all developing regions (Central America, sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia) and their respective regional integration bodies, including the Latin American Intergration Association, the Southern African Development Community and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. It is expected that approximately 15 countries will directly benefit from the project through capacity-building, while virtually all Member States will benefit through research and analysis output regarding the use and effects of non-tariff measures and how they can affect the integration of countries into the global economy.

76. The project builds upon lessons learned from the intergovernmental meetings of UNCTAD, as well as its responses to specific requests of Member States to help them design new trade policies and assist in negotiating trade agreements. The project will also draw on the positive experience resulting from the collaboration among UNCTAD, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, FAO and OECD on the Conference's 2012 comprehensive classification of non-tariff measures, as well as from the "transparency in trade" partnership established among UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre, the World Bank and the African Development Bank to upgrade and disseminate comprehensive data on non-tariff measures in order to meet the needs of developing countries. The data resulting from the project will be managed by UNCTAD and freely disseminated to all Member States through the World Integrated Trade Solutions/Trade Analysis and Information System database. UNCTAD will also provide expertise in updating/creating national and regional databases on non-tariff measures where required.

Objective of the Organization: To increase the capacity of policymakers in developing countries to address the implications of non-tariff measures for improving export performance and integration into the global economy

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Trade and development subprogramme 3 (International trade); Millennium Development Goal 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	45.0
Consultants	248.0
Travel	100.0
Contractual services	12.0
Operating expenses	35.0
Workshops/training	180.0
Total	**620.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of officials, researchers and institutions in developing countries to collect and disseminate information on non-tariff measures	(IA1.1) Increased number of countries in the World Integrated Trade Solutions/Trade Analysis and Information System and online databases (national/regional), with improved availability of data on non-tariff measures (IA1.2) Increased number of officials and researchers in developing countries reporting improved knowledge regarding the collection, dissemination and analysis of information related to non-tariff measures following regional workshop attendance (measured through a survey)

(EA2) Enhanced capacity of officials, researchers and institutions in developing countries to use the collected data to analyse the effects of non-tariff measures on the domestic economy and exports	(IA2.1) Increased number of policy analysis, research and ongoing activities related to non-tariff measures in developing countries making use of the collected data disseminated through the World Integrated Trade Solutions/ Trade Analysis and Information System and other national/regional databases
(EA3) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and capacity of policymakers in developing countries to formulate effective policy responses using established data platforms and improved analytical tools related to non-tariff measures	(IA3.1) Increased number of policymakers able to use the recommendations contained in the comprehensive report for domestic policymaking and effectively negotiating trade agreements, as measured by the dissemination of, requests for and use of the report by Member States and by the participation and assessment of the Geneva workshop (measured through a survey)
	(IA3.2) Increased number and availability of studies related to non-tariff measures ready for use in the policymaking processes of developing countries

Main activities

77. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Co-organize, in collaboration with regional commissions and other organizations (such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank), 3 regional training workshops on the collection and analysis of data on non-tariff measures in 15 developing countries so as to build the capacities of data collectors and trade policy researchers in beneficiary countries;

(A1.2) Collect data on non-tariff measures applied in the area of trade by developed countries and the 15 developing countries, to obtain information on issues related to access to major markets, especially in relation to the exports of developing countries;

(A1.3) Verify, standardize and format the newly collected data and freely disseminate them through the World Integrated Trade Solutions/Trade Analysis and Information System, linking relevant regional and national databases with the System;

(A2.1) Produce analytical and policy studies (national, regional and sectoral) on the impact of non-tariff measures on international trade in order to enhance knowledge about the effects of such measures on developing countries' integration into international markets. The studies will contribute to a comprehensive policy report on the effects of non-tariff measures on the trade of developing countries;

(A3.1) Organize a workshop to disseminate and discuss the comprehensive report and its analytical findings among Geneva-based trade officials with a view to developing comprehensive recommendations for policymakers in developing countries;

(A3.2) Provide follow-up support on non-tariff measures to policymakers in beneficiary developing countries with regard to new data collection and implementation strategies and policy implications related to non-tariff measures.

O. Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Programme ($595,000)

Background

78. Small island developing States share environmental and economic vulnerabilities and sustainable development challenges, including susceptibility to natural disasters, isolation from major markets and dependence on international trade and tourism. Low elevation and dependence on critical transport infrastructure such as seaports and airports make them highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially increased temperature, flooding/sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Therefore, adapting seaports and airports to the impacts of climate change is vital to the sustainable development prospects of these vulnerable nations. Targeted capacity-building is required in order to develop effective adaptation measures that ensure the resilience of transport infrastructure, services and operations in small island developing States.

79. The proposed project is aimed at enhancing the understanding/technical knowledge among policymakers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in small island developing States of the impacts of climate change on coastal transport infrastructure, in particular seaports and airports, and building their capacity to develop adequate adaptation response measures. A case study focusing on two vulnerable small island developing States in the Caribbean region (Jamaica and Saint Lucia) will be carried out to enhance the relevant adaptive capacity at the country level (phase I) and to develop a methodology/framework for assessing adaptation needs and priorities in coastal transport infrastructure (seaports and, as appropriate, airports) as a tool for use in other small island developing States (phase II). The case study involves three main components: (a) an assessment of the potential climate change impacts on seaports and airports in Jamaica and Saint Lucia, their direct costs and their broader economic impacts; (b) an assessment of options for adaptation in response to the potential impacts; and (c) the development of a methodology/tool to assist transport infrastructure managers and other relevant entities in small island developing States in assessing adaptation needs and priorities in the area of coastal transport infrastructure. The results of the study will be presented and training on the methodology provided at workshops for stakeholders at the national and regional levels. The two project countries that are the focus of the case study were selected using various criteria, including size, economic parameters, geographical conditions and potential exposure of transport infrastructure. The methodology will, subject to location-specific modifications, be available for use in other small island developing States in the Caribbean region as well as in other regions.

80. The project will be implemented by UNCTAD, but significant collaboration with other entities and stakeholders is envisaged, including with UNEP; regional commissions, in particular ECLAC; UNDP; the World Bank; and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. Work will be carried out, as appropriate, in close cooperation with private sector partners and, importantly, with local stakeholders, including relevant seaport/airport and planning authorities and local academic institutions.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of policymakers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in small island developing States to take appropriate adaptation response measures to climate change impacts on seaports and airports **Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals**: Trade and development subprogramme 4 (Technology and logistics); Millennium Development Goals 1, 7 and 8	**Summary budget** (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	General temporary assistance	23.2
	Consultants	174.2
	Expert group meeting	24.0
	Travel	108.6
	Contractual services	17.0
	Operating expenses	3.0
	Workshops/training	245.0
	Total	**595.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced knowledge/understanding among policymakers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in small island developing States of climate change impacts on seaport and airport infrastructure as well as associated implications for services and operations	(IA1.1) Formal feedback from stakeholders participating in activities under the project indicates significant improvement in the understanding of climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure and related implications for services and operations (IA1.2) Increased number of action plans, policy documents or strategy plans regarding coastal transport infrastructure planning and operations in the Caribbean region include the consideration of climate change impacts
(EA2) Strengthened capacity of policymakers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers in small island developing States to effectively plan and develop requisite adaptation measures that enhance the resilience of coastal transport infrastructure	(IA2.1) Stakeholders participating in activities under the project endorse the methodology as a useful tool for assessing adaptation needs and priorities in respect of coastal transport infrastructure (IA2.2) Increased number of action plans, policy documents or strategy plans regarding coastal transport infrastructure planning and operations in the Caribbean region take into account the methodology for assessing adaptation needs and priorities or reflect other policy guidance/recommendations developed as part of the project

Main activities

81. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize a case study focusing on 2 vulnerable small island developing States in the Caribbean region (Jamaica and Saint Lucia). The methodology developed as part of this activity will assist transport infrastructure managers and other relevant entities in small island developing States in assessing risk, understanding impacts and identifying priorities for decision-making about adaptation measures/actions;

(A1.2) Organize an expert group meeting to discuss and validate results of the case study (including methodology), consider best practices and provide substantive expert input regarding guidance/training materials for capacity-building;

(A1.3) Develop guidance/training materials for the purposes of disseminating the results of the case study and training on the methodology/tool;

(A1.4) Organize 2 national capacity-building workshops to: (a) disseminate results of the case study among policymakers, transport planners and key private sector stakeholders; (b) provide training in respect of the methodology/tool for assessing adaptation needs; and (c) provide policy guidance/recommendations and share best practices for adaptation action;

(A2.1) Organize a regional capacity-building workshop for other small island developing States in the Caribbean region to: (a) disseminate the results of the case study among policymakers, transport planners and key private sector stakeholders; (b) provide training in respect of the methodology/tool for assessing adaptation needs; and (c) provide policy guidance/recommendations and share best practices for adaptation action. The regional workshop is intended to ensure significant multiplier effects of the project for small island developing States in the Caribbean region and other regions;

(A2.2) Establish a web-based platform for information-sharing, communication and dialogue among relevant stakeholders and interested parties under the project activities.

P. Strengthening the capacity of the members of the Economic Community of Central African States to enhance domestic production linkages with the mineral resources sector

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($641,000)

Background

82. The 10 countries members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) are endowed with major reserves of mineral resources (fuel and solid minerals), including, for example, 51 per cent of the world's cobalt production, 25 per cent of the world's industrial diamond production and 30 per cent of African crude oil production. The exploitation of these exhaustible minerals could be a major source of employment, income and sustainable development. Yet, mining regimes in these countries often remain narrowly focused on exporting strategic minerals to industrialized countries for valuable foreign exchange. This comes at the expense of national development. Building sustainable linkages between mineral production and domestic economies has therefore become more critical and urgent.

83. The aim of the project is to develop the capacities of the beneficiary countries to design and implement participatory strategies for the creation and strengthening of lasting national economic linkages to mineral-exploitation-related activities. This would involve, inter alia, stimulating dialogue among political leaders and local business organizations and professional associations, as well as foreign investors, on ways and means to ensure investment in mineral activities that facilitate the creation of new activities, jobs and subcontracting opportunities between foreign companies and local enterprises.

84. The project will initially target three ECCAS pilot countries[4] that have a high dependency on minerals, potential for the scaling-up of national experience to the regional level and optimal security/stability conditions for stakeholder participation in capacity-building programmes in the area of natural resource exploitation. It is expected that, upon the implementation of the project, each country will design a strategy by identifying policies, including the legal and regulatory framework for facilitating local private sectors in capturing, in the medium term, market share in such services as construction, processing, logistics, marketing and business consulting.

85. One of the outcome documents of the thirteenth session of UNCTAD, the Doha Mandate, which builds on the outcomes of the twelfth session of the Conference (the Accra Accord) and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("The future we want"), refers specifically to the promotion of natural resources management strategies for sustainable development. The Accra Accord recommends that countries be assisted with strategies that maximize the benefits accruing to them from the extractive industries and that links between international commodity trade and national development, particularly with regard to poverty reduction, be addressed. The Doha Mandate urges continued support for commodity-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa, in the promotion of diversification and the integration of natural resources policies into their national development strategies.

86. The project builds upon lessons learned over the 15 years of the UNCTAD programme on natural resource management. It will use findings contained in various UNCTAD research publications, including the *World Investment Report*, on extractive industries, linkages and transnational corporations; research on best practices in terms of local content strategies; and the outcomes of multi-year meetings on commodities and development. The project will be carried out by UNCTAD in cooperation with ECCAS, the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, the Department of Infrastructure and Natural Resources Development of ECA and the University of Cape Town.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of policymakers, technical specialists and national institutions in the ECCAS countries to enhance national production linkages from the mineral resources sector

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Trade and development subprogramme 3 (International trade); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	33.0
Consultants	174.5
Expert group meeting	22.5
Travel	73.5
Contractual services	35.0
Operating expenses	2.5
Workshops/training	300.0
Total	**641.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Improved capacity of policymakers to develop and implement strategic plans and frameworks to facilitate the participation of local operators/communities in mining-related services	(IA1.1) Frameworks for effective local participation in the mineral value chain prepared in the three project countries

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[4] Tentatively, Chad, the Congo and Equatorial Guinea.

	(IA1.2) Multi-stakeholder national task forces comprising representatives of all the stakeholders in the mineral sector are established in three ECCAS countries for mining-related legislation and/or policy
(EA2) Increased partnerships between national, regional and international training institutions to provide upgraded skills to mining and environmental specialists	**(IA2.1) Increased number of policymakers and technical (mining and environmental) specialists indicate that they have strengthened their skills in mineral policy and mining-related business development in the three pilot ECCAS countries**
(EA3) Enhanced stakeholder access to information on the mineral value chain	**(IA3.1) Increased number of stakeholders using the digitalized platform (number of hits) in three ECCAS countries**

Main activities

87. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a needs assessment for three countries that are dependent on solid, liquid and gaseous minerals and in which the project will have a regional impact;

(A1.2) Develop training materials on methodologies and best practices relating to local participation in the extractive industries and to resource policy;

(A1.3) Organize 3 national workshops for regulators, local entrepreneurs interested in mineral services sector, and local banks to develop business plans and set up proper financing mechanisms;

(A1.4) Organize 1 regional conference to review best practices in the areas of resource policy, mining-related business development and mineral resource governance;

(A1.5) Organize 3 expert group meetings (1 in each project country) to establish multi-stakeholder national task forces to coordinate mineral policy design, dialogue, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The task force would comprise high-level ministry officials, ECCAS parliamentarians, trade union representatives, provincial governors, representatives of industry associations/chambers of commerce and local community representatives;

(A2.1) Design programmes for the upgrading of skills in the minerals-related sector. This includes the following: (a) identifying relevant training institutions at the national and regional levels (school or faculty of mining/petroleum, business school); and (b) developing partnerships between the chosen institutions and more advanced training institutions;

(A2.2) Organize 2 study tours/fellowships for multi-stakeholder national task force members to Gabon and South Africa and overseas and, where required, to headquarters of partners to learn about success stories in the area of mineral resources development policy;

(A3.1) Develop a platform for information-sharing on the mineral value chain that meets the needs of all stakeholders in the three countries. This includes the following: (a) mobilizing the private sector, the ministry in charge of natural resources, academia and the communities affected by extractive activities to provide relevant information for the platform; and (b) organizing three training sessions (one in each project country) with civil society organizations to define methodologies for providing reliable data for the platform.

Q. Building the capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Africa ($611,000)

Background

88. Sustainable freight transport entails the ability to provide reliable, cost-effective, environmentally friendly, low-carbon and climate-resilient transport systems. It has the potential not only to help improve energy efficiency and address negative environmental and climate change impacts associated with large-scale transportation, but also to reduce vulnerability to rising and volatile energy prices that drive up fuel and transport costs. As such, it is an important consideration in the creation of sustainable development.

89. The importance of enhancing the environmental sustainability and climate performance of the transport sector and its services has been recognized at recent multilateral conferences. One of the outcomes of the thirteenth session of UNCTAD (the Doha Mandate) and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("The future we want") referred explicitly to sustainable transport and recognized its importance in a global sustainable development framework. The participants in both conferences identified measures to promote the development of sustainable transport systems, including through energy-efficient, multimodal transport systems and clean fuels and vehicles/vessels, as well as improved transportation systems, including in rural areas, and the need to promote an integrated approach and private-public partnerships. However, for most developing countries, bringing about this shift is difficult, given the lack of well-articulated strategies and of available financial resources. The project is aimed at addressing these shortfalls by helping national and regional stakeholders to develop transport policies and strategies that promote planning and investment decisions that exploit and foster synergies between freight transport and the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development.

90. The project will be implemented in two selected regions, Africa and the Caribbean, to allow for the drawing of lessons learned and comparisons and to create synergies where possible. Several countries in these two regions have made some progress in promoting the shift to sustainable transport and provide examples to be learned from and replicated. It will be important for each region to draw on existing experiences and best practices in formulating its own approach, which will take into account its local/regional/subregional circumstances, conditions and opportunities and be consistent with its longer-term strategic development plans and objectives. In this respect, the project is aimed at strengthening the capacities of policymakers (transport, infrastructure and finance), transport operators (rail, road and seaport) and financial institutions to effectively mainstream the concept of sustainability into transport planning and financing decisions and to develop appropriate tools and mechanisms. The project involves three components. The first is a knowledge-based development component, which is expected to be the main pillar of the project. It consists of the development of two complementary tools: (a) reference/training materials (toolkit) and (b) a web-based platform (centre of excellence for the sharing of information and experience). These will feature training materials, best practices, case studies and reference materials regarding the development and financing of sustainable freight transport systems. Secondly, the project

includes a capacity-building and training component that will include two regional workshops, one in Africa and one in the Caribbean. Two training workshops based on the toolkit will be conducted in order to promote awareness-raising and the sharing of experiences/best practices among relevant public and private sector stakeholders on the various aspects of sustainable freight transport and finance, and to identify and agree on common policy priority/areas and actions promoting sustainability in freight transport in the two regions. Thirdly, national workshops will be conducted in two selected countries (one in Africa and one in the Caribbean) to support the efforts of national institutions to develop appropriate freight transport strategies and financing mechanisms. This would be a demand-driven activity delivered to the two countries following the regional workshops.

Objective of the Organization: To build the capacity of policymakers (transport, infrastructure and finance), transport operators (rail, road and seaport) and key financial institutions in Africa and the Caribbean to promote and finance sustainable freight transport through sound transport policy measures and adequate financing actions and strategies

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Trade and development subprogramme 4 (Technology and logistics); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 5 (Regional integration, infrastructure and trade); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 9 (Natural resources and infrastructure); Millennium Development Goals 1, 7 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	35.0
Consultants	210.0
Travel	71.0
Contractual services	10.0
Operating expenses	1.0
Workshops/training	284.0
Total	**611.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced knowledge and cooperation among policymakers, transport operators and financiers in Africa and the Caribbean to promote and finance sustainable freight transport development	(IA1.1) Stakeholders participating in the project (i.e., policymakers, transport operators and financiers in Africa and the Caribbean) acknowledge a better understanding of how to promote and finance sustainable freight transport
	(IA1.2) Enhanced cooperation and sharing of information/experiences/best practices among relevant public and private sector stakeholders as well as academia and research institutions through the use of the web-based platform
(EA2) Strengthened capacity of policymakers, transport operators and financiers in selected countries to effectively plan/develop and adopt requisite policies/strategies to promote and finance the development of sustainable freight transport systems	(IA2.1) Stakeholders in the two project countries agree on common policy priority/areas and actions to promote and finance sustainability in freight transport in their regions
	(IA2.2) Stakeholders in the two project countries adopt policies/strategies to promote and finance sustainability in freight transport in their countries

Main activities

91. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a toolkit that will include training materials, case studies, tools and reference materials on the development and financing of sustainable freight transport systems;

(A1.2) Create a web-based platform/centre of excellence on sustainable freight transport with the collaboration of relevant institutions and initiatives, regional development banks and other existing programmes to promote cooperation, information-sharing and best practices in the field of sustainable freight transport and finance;

(A1.3) Organize 2 regional training workshops (1 in Africa and 1 in the Caribbean) to: (a) build capacities in the areas of sustainable freight transport and finance on the basis of the toolkit developed; (b) provide a forum for a dialogue among the countries of the region; and (c) identify key policy actions/recommendations facilitating a shift towards sustainable freight transport;

(A2.1) Organize 4 national workshops (2 for the selected country in Africa and 2 for the selected country in the Caribbean) to provide policy guidance/technical training in support of the efforts of national institutions to adopt policies/strategies aimed at the development of sustainable freight transport and the creation of funding proposals. The first national workshop should create a common understanding and consensus with regard to the most suitable financing mechanism to be established for the promotion of sustainable freight transport, and will result in a strategy for establishing such a mechanism. The second national workshop will provide for the required capacity-building in support of the efforts of national institutions to implement the strategy.

R. Strengthening the capacities of policymakers in developing countries and investment promotion officials in priority sectors to attract investment for sustainable and inclusive development

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($585,000)

Background

92. If they are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and fulfil the vision set out in "The future we want", developing countries, in particular least developed countries and other countries with weak and vulnerable economies, will have to boost investment and private sector participation in such sectors as infrastructure and public services. The latest UNCTAD data show that in 2011, international investment attraction declined for the third consecutive year in some of the world's poorest regions, including Africa. Clearly, there is a greater need in these regions for assistance from the international community in building individual and institutional capacity to attract investment and ensuring that it contributes to sustainable and inclusive outcomes.

93. The project, therefore, is aimed at supporting government policymakers in identifying, designing and implementing effective investment policies that will increase the level of private sector investment in priority sectors identified in "The future we want" and will maximize the development contribution of investment. To maximize private sector investment, the project will place particular focus on private sector participation through public-private partnerships.

94. The project will draw on the deep and wide-ranging expertise of UNCTAD in capacity-building as well as on the substantive, research-based toolkit recently developed by the Conference, the

Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development. The Framework distinguishes itself in several ways. Its approach is holistic (placing sustainable development at the core), systemic (addressing all dimensions of investment policy) and synergistic (fostering interaction with relevant national and international policies). Overall, it places particular emphasis on the relationship between foreign investment and sustainable development, advocating a balanced approach between the pursuit of purely economic growth objectives by means of investment liberalization and promotion, on the one hand, and the need to protect people and the environment, on the other.

95. The project will ensure that its policy recommendations and technical cooperation activities are in line with empirical findings and best practices in the area of international investment for sustainable development, especially with respect to public-private partnerships. The training and capacity-building of investment policymakers in developing countries will establish long-term, sustainable expertise in those countries in the areas of national and international investment policymaking, data collection and investment promotion and attraction that will boost the overall level of investment in sustainable and inclusive growth sectors of their economies, in line with the post-United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development agenda.

96. UNCTAD monitoring and evaluation has shown that support and capacity-building provided to developing country Governments and investment promotion agencies in the area of investment and enterprise development have led to the implementation of policy recommendations and increases in levels of investment. At the same time, UNCTAD research shows that even in cases where countries have been successful in attracting investment, positive development outcomes have not always been the result. This indicates that countries, especially those with the weakest institutional capacities, would benefit from training, capacity-building and policy support in the area of investment policies to maximize the impact of those policies on development outcomes. With a view to achieving this, the project is also aimed at involving long-time partners of UNCTAD, the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, the International Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations regional economic commissions, in order to engage the investment promotion community alongside policymakers and ensure that investment policy is coordinated and coherent at the country and regional levels.

Objective of the Organization: To increase the capacity of policymakers and investment promotion officials in four selected countries to formulate and implement policies that increase the contribution of international investment to sustainable development and inclusive growth in priority sectors

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Trade and development subprogramme 2 (Investment and enterprise); Millennium Development Goals 1, 7 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	35.0
Consultants	150.0
Expert group meeting	53.0
Travel	86.0
Contractual services	15.0
Operating expenses	10.0
Equipment	4.0
Workshops/training	232.0
Total	**585.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased understanding and awareness among policymakers and investment promotion officials in beneficiary countries of the role that international investment could play in sustainable and inclusive development	(IA1.1) Increased number of national policymakers and investment promotion officials able to identify the principles and policies set out in the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and the mechanisms by which international investment can contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, including through public-private partnerships (to be measured through official correspondence with project target countries and an online survey)
(EA2) Increased capacity of government and investment promotion officials in beneficiary countries to collect, analyse and use investment data in order to be able to make and implement informed, evidence-based policy decisions that will boost investment in the areas of infrastructure and public services	(IA2.1) Increased number of government and investment promotion officials in beneficiary countries trained in the use of UNCTAD foreign direct investment databases (for example, foreign direct investment trends, international investment agreements) and methodologies and how they relate to and can be used in investment policymaking
	(IA2.2) Increased number of contributions and notifications to UNCTAD investment databases coming from project target countries
(EA3) Increased ability among policymakers in beneficiary countries to formulate and implement policies, including public-private partnerships, to attract international investment in such areas as infrastructure and public services	(IA3.1) Increased number of new policy changes designed and implemented in such areas as infrastructure and public services, drafted as a result of the UNCTAD policymaking toolkit, the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and other socially and environmentally responsible indicators (to be assessed through consultation with beneficiary countries and a post hoc implementation review process similar to the UNCTAD investment policy review process)
	(IA3.2) Increase in foreign direct investment in priority areas such as infrastructure and public services

Main activities

97. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) (i) Organize 1 regional expert group meeting in 1 of the target countries to bring together international experts and regional and national stakeholders in order to contribute their unique perspectives, which will feed into the development of training materials and databases; (ii) on the basis of the outcome of the expert group meeting, the UNCTAD Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and other materials supporting investment policy, especially in the area of public-private partnerships, develop training material targeted at policymakers and investment promotion officials in beneficiary countries;

(A1.2) Create an online repository of best practices with respect to investment policy and promotion for sustainable development in the areas of infrastructure and public services, in particular public-private partnerships, in order to support countries in this area;

(A1.3) Organize and provide substantive servicing for 4 country policy workshops for policymakers and investment promotion officials in beneficiary countries using the aforementioned training materials and online repository of best practices;

(A2.1) Customize existing UNCTAD foreign direct investment databases to meet user needs specific to the selected priority areas, such as infrastructure and public services, and on the basis of consultation with beneficiary countries;

(A2.2) Organize and provide substantive servicing for 4 country technical training workshops for government officials and investment promotion experts involved in data collection and analysis, on the use of UNCTAD foreign direct investment databases, data collection and methodologies and how they relate to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of investment policies, including public-private partnerships. This activity will further contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project outcomes;

(A3.1) Provide advisory services for beneficiary country policymakers and investment promotion officials, delivered by UNCTAD experts;

(A3.2) Create an online discussion forum and digital network to enable project beneficiaries to interact and exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices in the area of investment policymaking for sustainable development, which is ultimately intended to help beneficiaries attract more investment, while contributing to the wider dissemination of the project results;

(A3.3) Organize a seminar in Geneva on the experience of public-private partnerships in priority sectors in beneficiary countries, for delegates from United Nations Member States and the international development community, with the view to disseminating the results of the project to a wider audience and supporting increased investment through public-private partnerships.

S. Building sustainable and resilient ecological food systems using ecosystem-based adaptation in agriculture-dominated landscapes in sub-Saharan Africa

United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development ($633,000)

Background

98. Healthy, well-functioning ecosystems enhance natural resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change and reduce the vulnerability of people. Ecosystem-based adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people and communities adapt to the negative effects of climate change at the local, national, regional and global levels. Ecosystem-based adaptation provides many benefits to communities, including food

security (in areas ranging from fisheries to agroforestry), sustainable water management and livelihood diversification (through increasing resource-use options). There is evidence that ecosystem-based adaptation actions can provide the right framework for catalysing transformative change on a larger scale.

99. The project will be focused on creating ecosystem-based adaptations that enhance food security. Ecosystem-based adaptation actions encompass many sustainable approaches to enhancing food security, such as buffer strips, on-site water conservation, the use of native species, changes to cropping systems, landscape-scale management, the protection of water resources and the incorporation of local knowledge into agroecological production systems. In addition, they can be quickly implemented using local capacity, have short turnover periods and could potentially stimulate spontaneous replication while shifting farming towards sustainable production systems. Through the implementation of a number of these approaches in a series of demonstrations in target countries, the project will generate evidence and data about ecosystem-based adaptation that will help fill capacity gaps and provide information that will help in policymaking processes. Local and national institutions will be contracted with to conduct these demonstrations, with oversight provided by the relevant national ministry. By involving a variety of actors, this approach will ensure the interactive development of the capacity and skill sets of the project team onsite. Such flexibility allows self-starters to take action and others to grow organically. This in turn allows for the diversification of the intervention, which builds resilience in the national adaptation strategy and the implementation of multiple activities on national priorities for adaptation and food security.

100. Workshops and advisory missions will be used to transfer the information gained from demonstrations to policymakers and relevant stakeholders. Stakeholders will include actors responsible for ecosystem-based adaptation on the ground, including non-governmental organizations, private sector actors and local governments. Research and academic institutions will also be targeted, in an effort to ensure that the knowledge gained as a result of the project is incorporated into ongoing research and that scientific gains are made accessible to policymakers and ecosystem-based adaptation stakeholders. Through the project, therefore, science will inform action and action will help inform science and policy. Potential target countries are Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Togo and Uganda.

101. The project will build on successful experiences in UNEP-led ecosystem-based adaptation and food security projects, such as the use of agroforestry, conservation agriculture and integrated nutrient management and the establishment of woodlots as a land management practice in Uganda. The project will also build on the long-standing and valued reputation of UNEP in terms of providing global leadership, encouraging partnerships and mobilizing the body of knowledge about the ecosystem management approach as it applies to cultivated land, forest, dry lands and mountain biomes. The project will be complemented by a robust upscaling strategy that complements and builds upon other, related actions such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme. UNEP expects that partners and donors will provide further in-kind and financial support for ongoing implementation.

Objective of the Organization: To build the ecological resilience of food systems and enhance food security through ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Environment subprogramme 1 (Climate change) and subprogramme 3 (Ecosystem management); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	15.0
Consultants	48.5
Travel	28.0
Contractual services	448.5
Operating expenses	9.0
Workshops/training	84.0
Total	**633.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Bridge the science-policy gap that currently exists through evidence gathered as a result of the demonstration of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches for food security	(IA1.1) Number of national reports using ecosystem-based adaptation approaches
(EA2) Strengthened government capacities to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation approaches into national food security policies and plans in four target countries	(IA2.1) Positive feedback on the usefulness/effectiveness of demonstrated ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in enhancing food security in four target countries. This will be verified through interviews of stakeholders and national experts involved in project activities
(EA3) Lessons learned from ecosystem-based adaptation for food security disseminated to a wider African audience	(IA3.1) Four national governments incorporating ecosystem-based adaptation approaches into food security plans

Main activities

102. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Test ecosystem-based adaptation approaches and draw lessons from existing cases that contribute to increases in food productivity in four target countries;

(A1.2) Integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into national and subnational food security policy plans;

(A2.1) Organize advisory missions for national and subnational institutions to help Governments in the four target countries to finalize national and subnational food security policy plans based on ecosystem-based adaptation;

(A2.2) Organize national workshops for food security and adaptation actors in the four target countries in order to draw lessons learned and formulate them to inform policy development and planning;

(A3.1) Organize a regional workshop to disseminate the lessons learned to a wider audience in the target countries and the region.

T. Supporting developing countries in delivering sustainable consumption and production services at the country level

United Nations Environment Programme ($651,000)

Background

103. Since the holding of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there has been international recognition that the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. Today, cities account for 3 per cent of total land surface, but consume 75 per cent of natural resources and produce 50 per cent of global waste. Sixty per cent of all studied ecosystems have been damaged in the past 50 years or are being used unsustainably. Another 1 to 3 billion middle-class consumers will emerge by 2030, mainly in cities, putting additional pressure on natural resources and the environment. Sustainable consumption and production seeks to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation by increasing the efficiency of resource use and reducing degradation and pollution throughout the life cycles of products, while increasing quality of life and bringing about the adoption of sustainable lifestyles.

104. Sustainable consumption and production can contribute significantly to poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As a framework for development, it offers opportunities such as the creation of new markets and green jobs (e.g., markets for organic food, fair trade, sustainable housing, sustainable transport and tourism, and energy efficiency) as well as more efficient natural resource management that enhances well-being. It is also an opportunity to leapfrog to more resource-efficient, environmentally sound and competitive technologies. It requires the building of cooperation among Governments and all stakeholders as well as across sectors in all countries.

105. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, world leaders adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The Framework is a global plan of action to enhance international cooperation aimed at accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries. The Framework will support capacity-building and provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries for this shift. It will provide for the development, replication and scaling-up of sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency initiatives at the national and regional levels, decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth and increasing the net contribution of economic activities to poverty eradication and social development.

106. The main objective of the proposed project is to contribute to the implementation, under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, of sustainable consumption and production policies at the country level by providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The project activities will respond to countries' priorities and needs. More specifically, the project will: (a) assist countries in the development of sustainable consumption and production national action plans or in mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production into existing development strategies (e.g., sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies); and (b) support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production in specific sectors or policies responding to the key national priorities identified in existing national sustainable consumption and production action plans or related strategies. Countries targeted in the first set of activities will differ from those targeted in the second and will be chosen on the basis of their current level of

progress in the creation or implementation of sustainable consumption and production national action plans.

107. The project will focus on the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, responding to their national and regional priorities. These were identified in Latin America and the Caribbean in the sustainable consumption and production strategy for that region (including national sustainable consumption and production action plans, sustainable public procurement, education and sustainable lifestyles and an information network on sustainable consumption and production); in Asia through various consultations (on sustainable public procurement, eco-labelling, sustainable tourism, economic instruments and education aimed at sustainable consumption and production); and in Africa under the African regional 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (including national action plans on sustainable consumption and production, eco-labelling, agriculture, resource efficiency and clean manufacturing).

Objective of the Organization: To increase the capacity of targeted developing countries to deliver sustainable consumption and production policies at the national level, accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Environment subprogramme 6 (Resource efficiency); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	56.0
Consultants	237.0
Travel	75.0
Contractual services	278.0
Operating expenses	5.0
Total	**651.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased political commitment, partnerships and investment opportunities for sustainable consumption and production, based on sustainable consumption and production national action plans developed and/or the integration of the sustainable consumption and production approach, policies and tools into relevant development strategies (e.g., national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies) in two selected target countries	(IA1.1) Number of new partnerships and sustainable consumption and production national action plans developed, and/or revised strategies integrating the sustainable consumption and production approach, policies and tools (target: two countries, in two different regions)
(EA2) Increased implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies increasing resource efficiency and creating new economic and social opportunities, including sectoral policies, in response to priorities identified in existing national sustainable consumption and production action plans or related strategies in three selected target countries	(IA2.1) Number of national sustainable consumption and production policies implemented, advancing the implementation of priority policies or sectors identified in sustainable consumption and production national action plans or related strategies (target: three demonstration projects at the country level, one in each region)

Main activities

108. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize national multi-stakeholder round tables on sustainable consumption and production to launch the process of developing national action plans on sustainable consumption and production or mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production into development strategies by defining clear goals, targets and indicators;

(A1.2) Establish national multi-stakeholder groups to develop a scoping paper, setting up an institutional framework and selecting priority areas, objectives, targets and indicators;

(A1.3) Identify key partnerships and investment opportunities (through public-private partnerships and cooperation with financial institutions and relevant partners in the context of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production) for the future implementation of the sustainable consumption and production national action plans and/or revised strategies;

(A1.4) Organize a high-level political event to validate and officially launch sustainable consumption and production national action plans and/or revised strategies;

(A1.5) Contribute to the sharing of information and knowledge through the Global Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearinghouse by supporting the exchange of tools and best practices on sustainable consumption and production and encouraging partnerships and cooperation;

(A2.1) Identify country demand for concrete sustainable consumption and production policy implementation through a demonstration project (including at the sectoral level) to advance the implementation of national action plans on sustainable consumption and production or related strategies;

(A2.2) Organize a multi-stakeholder national workshop on the selected sustainable consumption and production policy/sector to launch the demonstration project and support the design of the policy, review related existing policies/initiatives and identify challenges and opportunities to build cooperation;

(A2.3) Provide technical assistance and training to decision makers, technical staff and key partners on the selected policy/sector in each country;

(A2.4) Organize a national meeting to monitor progress and provide information on main achievements, challenges, lessons learned and best practices;

(A2.5) Contribute to the sharing of information and knowledge through the Global Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearinghouse by showcasing work on sustainable consumption and production and benefiting from other interactive functions of the Clearinghouse, including learning about other best practices worldwide.

U. Enabling sustainable and resilient development in post-crisis countries by mainstreaming environment and risk reduction into development planning

United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction ($521,000)

Background

109. Countries affected by disasters and conflict often face considerable challenges in returning to a stable development trajectory and achieving a semblance of normalcy. Such contexts are characterized by a sense of urgency and intense political pressures to reconstruct destroyed infrastructure and restore lost development gains. This development rush to restore basic services, livelihoods and economic activity is generally given higher priority than ensuring sustainable development and meeting requirements for sound environmental management. New development activities in the context of post-crisis reconstruction efforts, for instance, can potentially exacerbate, create or recreate vulnerabilities to disasters.

110. In a post-conflict or post-disaster context, hundreds of development projects are often proposed simultaneously. An environmental impact assessment, which is conventionally applied to ensure that new development does not have adverse environmental impacts, can be delayed considerably (and last more than two years), leading to public pressure to override standard controls. It is therefore critical that a technically sound decision-making tool that facilitates the implementation of development projects while not compromising environmental sustainability or increasing local vulnerabilities to conflicts or disasters be made available to policymakers.

111. UNEP and UNDP have modified a tool used in sustainable development planning, the strategic environmental assessment approach, by integrating conflict and disaster sensitivities into the analytical framework. The approach was pilot-tested during the biennium 2010-2011 in Sri Lanka to establish a development framework for the Northern Province. Through the engagement of national and local government agencies, universities, the private sector and the general public, the integrated strategic environmental assessment mapped out the distribution of space and resources available for development with a minimum of environmental and disaster-related constraints (the so-called "opportunity map"). This led to the improvement of a number of infrastructure plans and development proposals and to the political endorsement of the approach at the highest level as a primary regional area development tool.

112. The case of Sri Lanka suggests that an approach that enables countries to promote area development that is both sustainable and disaster-resilient has the potential to be promoted in other post-crisis contexts as an integrated development planning tool. The approach will be further implemented in Côte d'Ivoire and Myanmar, two countries that are on the threshold of rapid development after decades of stagnation. Once the integrated strategic environmental assessment is replicated in the two target countries, there will be sufficient knowledge and experience, which could be further documented and disseminated as best practice in terms of integrated strategic environmental assessments for post-conflict and disaster-prone countries, including through advocacy efforts with regional organizations.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected post-conflict and disaster-prone countries to rapidly initiate development and reconstruction activities while maintaining sustainable development and resilience, through the implementation of integrated strategic environmental assessments

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Environment subprogramme 2 (Disasters and conflicts); Millennium Development Goal 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	102.0
Travel	48.5
Contractual services	136.5
Operating expenses	24.0
Workshops/training	210.0
Total	**521.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced capacities of selected target countries to apply integrated strategic environmental assessments and integrate environmental, conflict and disaster-risk considerations into post-crisis development planning	(IA1.1) The new approach to an integrated strategic environmental assessment prior to post-conflict reconstruction is implemented by the Government of at least one post-conflict country, with supporting institutional systems established (Côte d'Ivoire)
	(IA1.2) The new approach to an integrated strategic environmental assessment is implemented, with supporting institutional systems established, in at least one country that has been affected by a megadisaster and remains highly vulnerable (Myanmar)
(EA2) Integrated strategic environmental assessments more widely implemented and disseminated in other post-crisis countries through strengthened partnerships in the African and Asian regions and South-South cooperation	(IA2.1) African and Asian countries participating in the regional workshop, through a joint statement, support integrated strategic environmental assessment as an effective development planning tool in post-crisis contexts and agree to promote its further dissemination and replication
	(IA2.2) A peer-to-peer learning network is established that facilitates dialogue and the sharing of experiences between countries implementing the integrated strategic environmental assessment, with designated focal points from technical government agencies

Main activities

113. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a guidance note on integrated strategic environmental assessments, based on the Sri Lanka experience, to support the implementation of integrated strategic environmental assessment in the 2 other selected countries (Côte d'Ivoire and Myanmar) and to be used as an example of international best practice after the completion of the project;

(A1.2) Deliver training workshops geared towards national government agencies and relevant national experts on the application of integrated strategic environmental assessment in the 2 selected countries;

(A1.3) Provide direct technical assistance to guide the national implementation of integrated strategic environmental assessment in the 2 target countries;

(A1.4) Implement integrated strategic environmental assessment in the 2 target countries, which will involve conducting capacity assessments to determine resource needs and designing the assessment process; carrying out field visits to determine the geographical scope of assessment; and data gathering and processing;

(A2.1) Document and publish lessons learned and best practices on integrated strategic environmental assessment particularly suited for post-conflict and disaster-impacted countries, based on the three pilot countries;

(A2.2) Organize South-South learning exchanges (study tours) between the three participating countries in order to learn about different approaches used in implementing integrated strategic environmental assessment in various country contexts and to gain a new set of peers who can provide advice, support and guidance in the assessment implementation process, establishing the initial base for a peer-to-peer learning network (see also activity A2.4 below);

(A2.3) Convene an interregional workshop, inviting other post-crisis countries in Africa and Asia to create opportunities for countries to learn about the integrated strategic environmental assessment approach and its practical applications and to explore future opportunities for replication in the region;

(A2.4) Establish a peer-to-peer Africa-Asia regional learning network on integrated strategic environmental assessment involving the 3 implementing countries, additional countries participating in the interregional workshop, technical government agencies and professional organizations to facilitate future replications and continuous learning.

V. Strengthening capacities to address land tenure security in Africa through better monitoring and information

United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($501,000)

Background

114. Secure land and property rights are critical for reducing poverty and enhancing economic development, gender equality and social stability. When land is poorly managed, the resulting problems often lead to disputes, land degradation and lost economic and development opportunities, as seen in many developing countries. Secure land tenure and property rights can be delivered through a variety of means; they are partly a matter of perception and can be safeguarded through various mechanisms, provided the rights of land users and owners are clear. In addition to formal titles, security can be achieved through long-term rental contracts and the formal recognition of customary rights and informal settlements. This range of possible forms of tenure has become internationally recognized as a continuum, whereby each form of tenure provides a different set of rights and different degrees of security and responsibility.

115. While some Governments have, to varying degrees, recognized a range of different forms of tenure as legitimate, “tenure security” still tends to be defined strictly, in more secure forms such as individual land titles. This not only fails to take into account the realities on the ground, but also severely reduces the number of women and men, particularly those living in poverty, who can realistically afford such “formal” tenure security. The problem is particularly acute in Africa, where the majority of populations will remain unable to afford such forms of tenure for generations and are increasingly marginalized by market-based statutory tenure systems that emphasize individual rights. At present, it is estimated that more than 70 per cent of Africans live outside the framework of the formal land registry.

116. Given the limitations of land-titling and the value of an incremental approach to secure tenure, UN-Habitat, serving as the secretariat of the Global Land Tool Network, a coalition of 50 global partners working to enable Governments and partners to implement pro-poor land policies, advocates the use of a variety of alternative tenure options that can be more easily adapted in developing countries. While the continuum approach is increasingly being endorsed, important work is still required in order to change deeply ingrained mindsets regarding what secure tenure entails.

117. While tenure security in Africa needs to be addressed at many levels, the project is focused specifically on enabling land practitioners (State and non-State actors) and national statistical offices to more effectively monitor and provide information on the status of different existing forms of tenure at the national and city levels, so as to be able to provide more accurate advice on land policy. This is a critical component of improving land policy formulation and implementation in Africa, as the information will enable Governments and non-State actors to assess how land policies are being implemented in practice and over time.

118. The project is focused on developing the capacities of land practitioners and statistical offices in three countries in Africa, with a view to sharing and promoting the methods used across the region. It will build on an existing tenure security indicators framework focused on urban land tenure security, jointly produced by UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network. Methods of measuring and tracking various forms of tenure will be applied to both urban and rural settings and will be institutionalized in the selected countries through opportunities to add tenure-security-related questions to existing surveys such as the demographic health survey and the multiple indicators cluster survey. National statistical offices will also be supported in using the urban inequities survey and in conducting assessments at the city policy level through the Legal and Institutional Framework Index, both of which have been tested by UN-Habitat in various cities. The process will encourage collaboration between statistical and municipal offices and will draw on a wide range of State and non-State land actors in refining the measurement methods and analysing and sharing the data.

119. The project will draw on a number of partners of the Global Land Tool Network, with the primary one being ECA, which will provide the platform for regional exchange and synergy with the roll-out of the above-mentioned land policy initiative framework and guidelines. FAO will capitalize on the project to encourage countries to implement the Committee on World Food Security’s Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The Network’s secretariat will provide a global platform for harnessing expertise, making use of its convening power, creating space for knowledge-sharing, management, and documenting the practices. The country experiences are expected to generate further understanding and international support for the critical area of tenure security monitoring, which is still underresourced.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected African Governments and other relevant land actors in monitoring tenure security to guide land policy implementation **Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals**: Human settlements subprogramme 1 (Urban legislation, land and governance) and subprogramme 7 (Research and capacity development); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 2 (Food security and sustainable development) and subprogramme 9 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goal 7	**Summary budget** **(Thousands of United States dollars)**	
	Consultants	140.5
	Travel	45.0
	Grants	180.0
	Operating expenses	26.0
	Workshops/training	109.5
	Total	**501.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased capacity of the three selected African Governments to assess land tenure security through the use of a tenure security indicators framework	(IA1.1) Number of Member States able to utilize the tenure security indicators framework, and its methods, tools and guidelines, in their urban and national contexts
(EA2) Land policy decisions in the three selected countries informed through the findings of the tenure security monitoring	(IA2.1) Number of Member States that have utilized the findings of the tenure security indicators framework to guide their land policies

Main activities

120. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize a regional workshop to: (a) update the project countries on the existing tenure security indicators framework, including its tools and guidelines; and (b) establish criteria for, and a preliminary selection of, representatives to constitute multi-stakeholder national land tenure monitoring reference groups, to provide advice on the implementation of the project;

(A1.2) Develop a strategy and road map for assessing existing capacities of participating institutions and implementing the tenure security indicators framework in the 3 project countries;

(A1.3) Develop national adaptation of the tenure security indicators framework (including its methods, tools and guidelines) and the production of related training materials;

(A2.1) Organize national workshops (3) to enable national statistical and municipal offices to use the adapted tenure security indicators framework;

(A2.2) Provide support to 3 countries (through grants to national statistical and/or municipal offices, depending on country institutional contexts) in collecting data, analysing and disseminating the collected information, developing a strategy for the continued utilization of the methodology by their institutions, and convening multi-stakeholder action planning workshops to discuss the data and policy implications of the findings;

(A2.3) Document the experience gained in, and results of, the action learning seminars in the 3 countries, for wider learning on the possible land policy implications of the data generated.

W. Strengthening national capacities to formulate and adopt housing and slum upgrading strategies

United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($629,000)

Background

121. The unprecedented proliferation of slums is a manifestation of the lack of adequate and affordable housing in cities, resulting from ineffective public housing policies and urban planning. While the Millennium Development Goal target of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 has been achieved, the absolute number of the urban poor has increased and projections for 2020 indicate that the number of slum dwellers in the world will rise further, from 863 million to 1.4 billion, if no remedial action is taken. It has become internationally recognized that, in least developed and post-crisis countries in particular, the current housing supply is not responding to the demands of the urban poor. Because of this, and the increased costs of health care, sanitation and public safety associated with slums, many of these countries have identified slum upgrading and housing as among their top development priorities.

122. Addressing these housing shortages requires a shift in thinking and practice on the part of Governments and housing practitioners. A key challenge is to integrate the housing agenda into overall urban agendas, rather than operating in isolation without sufficient synergies with other city processes. The housing agenda also needs to be more inclusive. This requires closer linkages of housing with other parts of the economy; decentralized housing production; and the promotion of sustainable buildings, neighbourhood designs and technologies. It also calls for more effective efforts to address urban segregation (resulting from increased economic inequality and the divide in housing access), the lack of housing finance solutions for the poor and the failure of housing markets to meet housing needs.

123. The project is focused on developing capacity in six least developed countries to formulate housing and slum upgrading strategies that integrate the concerns mentioned above, implementing the UN-Habitat Global Housing Strategy at the country level. In "The future we want", world leaders committed themselves to promoting sustainable policies to support the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and upgrading. The Strategy employs global housing trends built upon the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, national housing policy reviews, situational analysis and comparative global policy research contextualized to regional and national specificities. It is entrenched in the current global reality, which is marked by several sustainability challenges: the financial crisis and world economic recession, urban exclusion and environmental degradation.

124. The project will provide a critical slum prevention component to an ongoing participatory slum upgrading programme initiated by the secretariat of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States, financed by the European Commission and implemented by UN-Habitat. The main counterparts in the six countries will constitute national habitat committees (civil society, the private sector, academia and development partners). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Human Rights (OHCHR), as an established partner, will support countries in formulating their rights-based approaches to housing. OHCHR and its network of grass-roots partners, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations will also be essential for the mobilization and empowerment of target groups. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), through the recently signed memorandum of understanding with UN-Habitat, will help to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment with a view to adequate housing for all. The relevant United Nations regional commissions will be important regional platforms for advancing the United Nations agenda on housing and will act as catalysts for the dissemination of the results to other countries in their regions.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the national capacities of at least six Member States in the formulation, operationalization and revision of national housing and slum upgrading strategies and policies

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Human settlements subprogramme 5 (Housing and slum upgrading); Millennium Development Goals 7 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	218.0
Travel	45.0
Contractual services	270.0
Workshops/training	96.0
Total	**629.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Establishment and strengthening of national habitat committees for the formulation and implementation of sustainable and inclusive housing and slum upgrading strategies and/or policies	(IA1.1) Number of pilot countries that have established a coordination and implementation mechanism (national habitat committees)
	(IA1.2) Number of national habitat committees that demonstrate increased capacity to formulate and operationalize rights-based, gender-responsive, results-based and inclusive housing and slum upgrading strategies and/or policies
	(IA1.3) Number of national housing and sum upgrading strategies adopted with agreed action plans based on the strategies created
(EA2) Regional commitments for inclusive, rights-based, gender-responsive and results-based sustainable housing and slum upgrading endorsed by Governments	(IA2.1) Number of countries that endorse the principles and strategy of inclusive, rights-based, gender-responsive and results-based sustainable housing and slum upgrading

Main activities

125. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Provide policy and advisory services to create and/or strengthen the capacities of national habitat committees to mobilize key stakeholders and institutionalize monitoring and evaluation functions;

(A1.2) Hold inception/capacity development workshops to guide national habitat committees in developing action plans to formulate national housing and slum upgrading strategies;

(A1.3) Provide assistance to the national habitat committees in undertaking awareness-raising campaigns in urban areas on the strategy principles;

(A1.4) Conduct national-level action-based reviews, including legal, regulatory, institutional, planning and fiscal reviews, that lead to positive proposals of modifications to be submitted to the appropriate bodies for approval and incorporation into national strategies;

(A1.5) Provide advisory services through missions and the Global Housing Strategy e-communications platform on the formulation of housing strategies based on these reviews;

(A1.6) Hold national validation workshops for agreement on and the adoption of action plans based on strategies;

(A2.1) Organize three regional workshops to support pilot countries in sharing their experiences and raising awareness regarding Global Housing Strategy principles in each of the three regions to encourage broader regional commitments.

X. Strengthening the capacities of Member States in the Asia-Pacific region to mainstream climate change concerns into national urban-related policies

United Nations Human Settlements Programme, jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($730,000)

Background

126. In the face of the changing global climate, the future of millions of people in Asia and the Pacific will be determined by the pace and quality of the adaptation and mitigation undertaken by its cities. Climate change will challenge environmental sustainability, the structure of economies and patterns of settlements, livelihoods and employment. Furthermore, rapid urbanization in Asia and the Pacific is leading to a rapid increase in poverty in cities, with approximately one third of the region's urban population now estimated to live in slums. It is these communities that are most at risk from climate change. Both city planning and climate change are addressed in "The future we want", which emphasizes a holistic approach to urban development, highlighting the importance of addressing negative impacts of climate change, which undermine the ability of all countries, in particular, developing countries, to achieve sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals.

127. Cities, i.e., local governments and urban stakeholders, have started to address climate change in the Asia-Pacific region by exploring low-carbon development paths and building up their resilience, including through the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative. However, these efforts remain local. The key obstacles to a broader urban sector response to climate change are: (a) limited local and national capacities to address climate change challenges, aggravated by limited documentation and dissemination of good practices and regional support; (b) limited funding for climate change responses, particularly at the local level; and (c) a combination of a lack of political will (climate change is still seen as a threat well beyond the electoral cycle) and legal frameworks that do not anticipate rapid urban growth or climate change.

128. All these obstacles need to be urgently addressed. Given that the Cities and Climate Change Initiative supports local climate change action, the project is focused on supporting local and

national governments in together strengthening national and multilevel governance climate change frameworks for cities, since climate change frameworks need to incorporate local and urban dimensions and urban frameworks need to recognize climate change. The emphasis is on climate change adaptation, including ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction. These were identified by city representatives from the Asia-Pacific region at a conference on cities and climate change governance, organized by UN-Habitat in Sri Lanka in 2012, as the most strategic entry point in leveraging the support needed to address the other challenges, in particular climate change finance. The Cities and Climate Change Initiative is actively engaging with local and national governments in more than 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. UNEP has conducted reviews of national laws to mainstream climate change, and also wishes to address the urban dimension. ESCAP, with its convening power, will provide the regional platform for supporting legislative reform. Five countries will be selected in which, under the Cities and Climate Change Initiative, national policy gaps were identified that have hampered local climate change action.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of national Governments and urban stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to integrate climate change concerns into national urban policies and planning processes

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Human settlements subprogramme 1 (Urban legislation, land and governance), subprogramme 2 (Urban planning and design) and subprogramme 6 (Risk reduction and rehabilitation); Environment subprogramme 1 (Climate change); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 4 (Environment and development); Millennium Development Goal 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	187.0
Travel	90.0
Expert group meeting	40.0
Grants	200.0
Operating expenses	13.0
Workshops/training	200.0
Total	**730.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of national Governments of five selected countries to address the urban dimension of climate change through national urban housing policies/legislative reform	(IA1.1) Number of national policies in targeted countries formulated integrating urban dimensions of climate change
(EA2) Enhanced commitment of national and local governments and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to incorporate climate change concerns into national urban policies	(IA2.1) Number of additional national Governments in the Asia-Pacific region that have initiated policy change within a multilevel governance framework integrating urban and climate change dimensions

Main activities

129. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize a regional expert group meeting to share global best practices and develop a framework for the assessment of national urban policies, national housing policies, national urban planning frameworks and national climate change policies;

(A1.2) Conduct in-depth assessments, including broad-based stakeholder consultations, of national urban-related legislation to enhance climate change responsiveness in the 5 selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region to identify legislative gaps and opportunities to address them;

(A1.3) Provide advisory services and build national government capacities in up to 5 countries in support of legislative review;

(A1.4) Provide assistance in building local capacities in support of multisectoral and broad-based pilot city intervention in the same 5 countries to inform national legislative review;

(A2.1) Draft guidelines for legislative review;

(A2.2) Organize 2 subregional workshops to review/validate the draft guidelines, to adapt them to specific subregional realities/needs as appropriate and to develop a capacity development strategy for the national policy process;

(A2.3) Conduct a training workshop on legislative reform processes for Habitat Agenda partners;

(A2.4) Provide a comprehensive training package that is available online.

Y. Strengthening the capacity of African countries to use mobile technologies to collect and disseminate data for effective policy and decision-making

Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Statistics Division ($1,165,000)

Background

130. Statistics play a crucial role in the overall development policymaking process of countries by providing evidence for the establishment of objectives, targets and priorities. "The future we want" recognizes the importance of statistics in tracking progress towards sustainable development goals, including the global dimensions.

131. African countries have faced the perennial challenge that many of the relevant statistical data are not collected or compiled owing to financial constraints, lack of adequate appreciation of the use of data for evidence-based decision-making and monitoring of implementation, lack of awareness of the advantage gained by having their data disseminated to the international community, lack of human capacity and a low technology base.

132. Owing to this low technology base, most African national statistical systems use mostly manual, paper-based data-collection methods for specialized surveys, which provide the bulk of statistical data. Paper-based methods involve printing paper questionnaires, transporting them to the field workers and collecting them in a central location. These lengthy processes not only delay the production of data for decision-making, but also require numerous personnel for data collection and capture, thereby increasing financial constraints. As a result of these and other problems, computer-assisted interviewing methods are increasingly replacing pen-and-paper methods of survey data collection.

133. The permeation of mobile phones even in remote rural areas of Africa therefore presents an opportunity for African countries to adopt computer-assisted interviewing methods for data collection. These opportunities are already being exploited in Africa. In 2010, under the United Nations Global Pulse initiative, a survey was conducted on how populations perceived economic conditions during the preceding year, their ability to meet their own household needs, changes they had made to their ways of life, and their attitudes about the future. Several countries have used digital devices for data collection. Cape Verde used personal data assistants for its latest population and housing census and has extended their use to other surveys conducted in the country. Sao Tome and Principe has followed the Cape Verde example for its census. Senegal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are also planning to use personal data assistants for censuses. Malawi has conducted household surveys using personal data assistants. One of the advantages of using handheld devices for data collection is the automatic insertion of location attributes through their built-in Global Positioning System features.

134. While acknowledging that the problems of statistical capacity are multifaceted, the project will target the problems associated with data collection, particularly the technological issues. It will build on the lessons learned from statistical activities, in which handheld devices are already being used for data collection and dissemination across multiple sectors, such as health, socioeconomic development, agriculture, natural resource management and disaster relief. It will also make use of the existing statistical structures of national statistical systems in order to test, adapt and, where necessary, develop new mobile data-collection systems based on a range of devices, from simple-feature phones to high-end tablets. It seeks to ensure that national statistical systems are empowered to produce reliable, comprehensive, timely and integrated statistics by utilizing computer-assisted interviewing methods on this range of devices. It is also envisaged that the project will have at its disposal most of the applications that will power the systems developed in collaboration with training and research institutions in Africa, as a way of ensuring the sustainability of the systems.

135. The project will build on lessons learned during an earlier project on the subject matter, so as to refine its tools and procedures in the five countries. The emphasis of the project will be to ensure that the procedures and tools developed can be adopted independently by countries. ECA will lead the project, having the main responsibility for organizing and financing the activities through the budget allocated to each activity. Technical assistance and backstopping will be arranged through the Commission's subregional offices, while the African Centre for Statistics, at ECA headquarters, will provide overall technical and management oversight and coordination. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will provide additional coordination and ensure that the methods and tools being adopted and/or proposed conform to international standards and best practices. In addition, substantive divisions of ECA will provide discipline-specific perspectives on data needs.

Objective of the Organization: To improve the capabilities of national statistical systems in selected African countries to use mobile technology for the collection and dissemination of statistical data for evidence-based policymaking **Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 and the Millennium Development Goals**: Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 1 (Macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development), subprogramme 2 (Food security and sustainable development), subprogramme 4 (Information and science and technology for development), subprogramme 7 (Subregional activities for development) and subprogramme 9 (Statistics); Economic and social affairs subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goals 1-8	**Summary budget** (Thousands of United States dollars) General temporary assistance 40.0 Consultants 204.1 Travel 67.7 Contractual services 466.1 Equipment 255.0 Workshops/training 132.1 **Total** **1 165.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Concepts and methodologies for geo-enabled mobile data-collection systems developed by a network of African training and research institutions and agreed upon by national statistical systems for use in their countries	(IA1.1) Operational systems for collecting, transmitting and disseminating data developed (IA1.2) Concepts and methodologies for using handheld devices in data collection agreed upon by national statistical systems in selected countries
(EA2) Increased availability in selected African countries of geo-enabled data-collection systems running on mobile devices	(IA2.1) Number of national geo-enabled mobile data-collection systems adapted or developed through partnerships with training and research institutions
(EA3) Strengthened capacity of national statistical systems in selected African countries to use web-based platforms and mobile applications for the timely dissemination of statistical data	(IA3.1) Number of publications and reports attributing their sources of data on the pilot countries to national and regional databases established under the project

Main activities

136. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conduct a situation analysis of target pilot countries to establish key development indicators and a baseline for project implementation. Determine their state of readiness for the use of mobile devices, including, inter alia, the existence of ongoing data-collection plans that can be used as case studies, the skill sets available in the national statistical offices to serve as national counterparts for the project activities, the expertise in the countries' research and training institutions, and the state of the mobile network infrastructure;

(A1.2) Organize 1 regional meeting to review the findings and agree on the indicators to be collected in each of the project countries;

(A1.3) Develop and retain expertise in the countries, and incubate research that will sustain the concepts. Conceptual work will be undertaken in collaboration with national research and training institutions in the form of applied research contracts, with clear, time-bound deliverables. The institutions will be constituted into a network for the continuous exchange of knowledge about solutions being proposed, with one of the institutions being designated to lead and coordinate the network;

(A1.4) Develop concepts, methodologies and applications for geo-enabled mobile data-collection systems;

(A2.1) Develop training and operational manuals and guidelines on geo-enabled mobile data-collection methods;

(A2.2) Organize national training workshops on the use of geo-enabled mobile data-collection systems for scaling up in the five initial pilot countries of the earlier project;

(A2.3) Produce an advocacy booklet on the participation of subnational administrative units in data collection for the evidence-based monitoring of development programmes;

(A2.4) Organize study tours among project and non-project countries to share and incubate best practices;

(A3.1) Provide technical assistance to national statistical offices, selected line ministries, local government offices and community-based organizations to install platforms for data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination;

(A3.2) Set up an Internet-based data dissemination platform to receive data from the national and subnational platforms and disseminate them to regional and global users.

Z. Strengthening capacity for policy analysis, forecasting and development planning in selected African countries

Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($634,000)

Background

137. Over the years, the formulation and implementation of economic policy in many African countries have been hampered by weak capacity to use quantitative tools in general and forecasting methods in particular, and/or the inability to develop and maintain those tools for applications in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policy. Yet most of these countries are seeking appropriate development planning frameworks and policies to restructure their economies in order to promote sustainable growth and development in the face of continuous exogenous shocks. Previous attempts to develop and sustain policy-modelling capacity in Africa did not prove satisfactory, owing to a number of reasons. Most of the models developed were stylized and highly aggregated regional models or prototype individual country models, which by their nature had little relevance to individual African country policy and analytical needs. In many countries, the relevant know-how could not be transferred to local/national experts, given the reliance on foreign experts on short mission assignments for the maintenance and sustained development and application of these tools, as well as the lack of the capacity required to manage and maintain these models.

138. ECA has long recognized the difficulty that many African countries face in building full-fledged macroeconomic models and in training qualified modellers and forecasters to provide

Governments with concise and timely forecasts. In order to assist African countries in this respect, ECA will build a simple but consistent generic macroeconomic forecasting model that will be used to train modellers from Member States, who can then easily adapt it to the needs of their individual countries. The models will support Member States in generating credible forecasts, as well as conducting dynamic, forward-looking policy analysis, through the application of a system comprising a customized and structurally relevant suite of economic and econometric tools.

139. The building and updating of macroeconometric models require forecasting and planning experts, particularly in ministries of finance, planning and economic development at the national level and in regional economic communities and institutions at the subregional and regional levels. The project will build on existing United Nations projects in the area.

140. With a view to ensuring continuity, the project proposes the establishment of an African network for the development and integration of national economic forecasting capacities, with focus placed on evidence-based, statistically sound, timely and relevant forecasting and policy analysis within the framework of national development visions and plans.

141. The African network for forecasting and economic analysis will improve policy coordination among national agencies at the regional level, allowing policymakers to evaluate the impact of world economic conditions on the regional economy and on their own countries. The network will include modellers from the selected six countries[5] as well as participants from other countries who will benefit from training, and will contribute to the review of models. The stakeholders will come from ministries of finance and development planning.

	Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Objective of the Organization: To improve the capacity of selected African Member States and regional economic communities for economic modelling and forecasting for rigorous policy analysis and formulation in the context of national development plans	General temporary assistance	52.0
	Consultants	196.0
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 1 (Macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development), subprogramme 5 (Regional integration, infrastructure and trade) and subprogramme 9 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goal 1	Travel	78.0
	Contractual services	28.0
	Fellowships and grants	44.0
	Operating expenses	26.0
	Workshops	210.0
	Total	**634.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Increased knowledge and skills on the part of experts in participating Member States and regional economic communities in economic modelling and forecasting for policy analysis and planning	(IA1.1) Increased number of comprehensive national forecasts developed in project countries (IA1.2) Number of experts in target countries and regional economic communities using the forecasting model for preparing forecasts

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[5] Tentatively, the countries are Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia.

(EA2) Strengthened capacity of decision makers in Member States and regional economic communities in using economic models and forecasts for policymaking and monitoring the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1	**(IA2.1) Number of policymakers in participating countries using economic models and forecasts in policy analysis and policy development**
(EA3) Continental network of modellers created and input solicited from them to refine and finalize the prototype model with a standard data template for its application to individual African countries	**(IA3.1) Number of experts and research institutions participating in the modelling network** **(IA3.2) Input by modelling network members for the refinement and finalization of the prototype model and the standard data template for its application to individual African countries**

Main activities

142. **The main activities of the project will include:**

(A1.1) Construct a prototype forecasting model that can be adapted and applied to individual African countries;

(A1.2) Organize a meeting of modelling experts to review draft prototype model and related data requirements;

(A1.3) Construct 6 new country models for countries where no model currently exists; upgrade and maintain country models in those countries where they exist as part of the global Project LINK;

(A1.4) Develop standardized software packages for economic modelling and forecasting in Africa;

(A1.5) Refine and finalize the prototype model with a standard data template for its future application to individual African countries;

(A1.6) Train modellers from Member States and regional economic communities through a capacity-building workshop and advisory missions;

(A2.1) Develop training toolkits/guidelines based on the prototype forecasting model;

(A2.2) Train policymakers from Member States and regional economic communities through a capacity-building workshop and other support and advisory services;

(A3.1) Establish and maintain a network of modellers and research institutions;

(A3.2) Develop communities of practice for knowledge exchange and peer learning through a dedicated website.

AA. Strengthening the capacity of African Governments to negotiate transparent, equitable and sustainable contracts in extractive industries for broad-based sustainable growth and socioeconomic development

Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($635,000)

Background

143. More than half of the 54 countries in Africa are endowed with non-renewable natural resources. These resources play a crucial role in the economy, as they account for a significant share of exports. However, despite the enormous potential for facilitating inclusive economic growth and human development, countries with abundant reserves of minerals, oil and gas are often among the poorest and most unequal in the world. Natural resources can be a source of development but, unfortunately, they can also be an important factor contributing to the stagnation of human development and deep conflict in many societies. Owing to the mismanaged exploitation of resources, corruption and factors such as the lack of transparency and inequity in the exploitation agreements/contracts between private companies and the Government, too often these resources do not translate into benefits for citizens. Since African countries have a larger share of their economies dependent on revenues from the export of natural resources, the need to improve capacity for contract negotiation in extractive industries has become more relevant and crucial for long-term growth and transformation of the continent.

144. While much attention has been given to the transparency and management of Government revenues from extractive industries, less attention has been paid to the capacity of African countries to negotiate these contracts for the benefit of all their people. African Governments do not always have the capacity to negotiate beneficial contracts. Sometimes the Government awards the contracts without adequate legislation in place on how the reserves will be managed, profits disbursed or taxes collected. Support for capacity development in contract negotiations is available for African countries but not at the scale, depth, speed and comprehensiveness, and with the continuity required to build a necessary critical mass of informed mineral practitioners and other stakeholders that can promote sustainable change in the quality and nature of the contracts negotiated. The current relatively high rates of investment flows to the region and increasing demand for its natural or semiprocessed resources has put pressure on African countries to negotiate contracts or concessions on more beneficial terms and to maintain them effectively. Typically, and in particular when it comes to mineral resources, these terms are negotiated through a process characterized by profound bargaining and information asymmetries. Moreover, often capacities to monitor implementation of contracts and ensure adherence to regulatory frameworks are weak. This can lead to suboptimal results for the host country in the form of forgone revenues and missed opportunities for sustainable utilization of the resources, investments in human development and structural transformation.

145. The Africa Mining Vision, adopted in 2009 by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government, provides a framework for promoting transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socioeconomic development. The Africa Mining Vision envisages the mining sector to be a vehicle for structural change and transformation on the continent through the adoption of African-owned policies and strategies.

146. The project will build on the ECA training courses in mineral policy and contract negotiations, and similar initiatives established by the African Development Bank. The focus of this project will be emerging mineral economies on the continent which have not significantly benefited from technical assistance in the extractive sector. Prospective target countries include Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi and Uganda. Collaboration with UNCTAD, ECLAC and ESCAP will be sought in the identification of relevant good and bad practices in contract negotiations and in aligning frameworks for mineral resources development.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected African countries to negotiate and implement equitable and robust contracts in the extractive sector

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 5 (Regional integration, infrastructure and trade); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 9 (Natural resources and infrastructure); Trade and development subprogramme 3 (International trade); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	197.0
Travel	108.0
Contractual services	55.0
Operating expenses	20.0
Workshops/training	255.0
Total	**635.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased capacity of Governments in selected countries to negotiate equitable and sustainable extractive industry contracts	(IA1.1) Increased number of trainees and countries that have used the template, guidelines and toolkits for contract negotiations in the extractive industries
(EA2) Strengthened capacities of African Governments and civil society to monitor the implementation of contracts and ensure their adherence to regulatory frameworks	(IA2.1) Increased number of stakeholders involved in the monitoring of contracts and providing feedback on their quality

Main activities

147. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize a consultation to agree on interventions in the negotiation of extractive industry contracts and the framework for collaboration;

(A1.2) Develop a database of extractive industry contracts from Africa and beyond;

(A1.3) Develop templates, guidelines and toolkits for contract negotiations in extractive industries;

(A1.4) Organize capacity-building activities for relevant public officials to build their capacity to negotiate contracts in the extractive industries;

(A1.5) Develop platforms to disseminate and popularize the templates, guidelines and toolkits, and to promote knowledge- and experience-sharing on contract negotiations in the extractive sector;

(A1.6) Publish a compendium of good and bad practices on contract negotiations;

(A2.1) Organize capacity-building activities for relevant public officials and other stakeholders to build their capacity in monitoring the implementation of contracts;

(A2.2) Develop the platforms to promote knowledge- and experience-sharing on contract monitoring in the extractive sector.

AB. Strengthening the capacity of the African Peer Review Mechanism countries in conducting effective self-assessment and implementing national plans of action

Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa ($624,000)

Background

148. In recognizing that socioeconomic development cannot be achieved in the absence of good governance, the African leaders established the African Peer Review Mechanism in 2003 within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Mechanism, also referred to as "Africa Innovative Thinking on Governance", is a mutually agreed self-monitoring instrument voluntarily acceded to by the States members of the African Union.

149. The African Peer Review Mechanism is a comprehensive assessment of all the aspects of a country's governance system in the areas of democracy and political governance, socioeconomic development, economic governance and corporate governance. It is organized on a dual process of governance self-assessment of participant countries, with effective participation of all national stakeholders in designing, implementing and monitoring, and of external evaluation by the African Peer Review Panel, culminating in a peer review by the leaders of those countries.

150. The African Peer Review Mechanism has created an unprecedented wave of optimism and reforms in participant countries. Currently, 31 African countries, which represent 75 per cent of the African population, have acceded to the Mechanism, 15 countries have undergone the first peer review and 1 country has undertaken the second review.

151. Since its inception, ECA has provided technical assessments in political governance and economic management to the participating countries during the external reviews. ECA has also been focusing on capacity-development of national stakeholders through peer learning to enhance their participation in evaluating their governance in an inclusive manner and to strengthen the ability of participating countries to launch and conduct the Mechanism in a timely manner.

152. Successful governance assessments have resulted in the country review reports and national programmes of action. Both documents address the challenges and deficiencies, which are fundamental to democratic and socioeconomic development, during the self-assessment. All stakeholders in the African Peer Review process must be technically competent, credible and free from political manipulation.

153. The African Peer Review Mechanism has faced severe challenges since its establishment. Some of these challenges are (a) the low rate of countries joining and launching the process of review, (b) the challenge of harmonizing the national programmes of action of the reviewed countries with existing development plans, (c) the lack of systematic data collection, monitoring and reporting on the progress of implementation of the national programme of action and (d) challenges with regard to national ownership and the internalization of the Mechanism in the national planning systems. Such challenges, if not corrected, could weaken the credibility and sustainability of the Mechanism in the future.

154. This proposed project will provide technical assistance, through research, training and advisory services, in order to accelerate the accession of all African countries to the review process in an efficient manner and to enhance African Peer Review Mechanism-national programme of action integration into the national policy and planning systems of the participant countries.

155. The project will focus on selected African countries which have specifically requested ECA technical assistance. Every activity will be tailor-made to the specific needs of beneficiary countries (depending on their stage of the review) and, primarily, main national stakeholders (public institutions, parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector).

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of selected African Peer Review Mechanism countries to conduct effective self-assessment exercises and to integrate the resulting national plans of action into existing national development strategies

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 3 (Governance and public administration); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	12.0
Consultants	178.0
Expert group meeting	30.0
Travel	183.0
Contractual services	30.0
Operating expenses	20.0
Workshops/training	171.0
Total	**624.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased knowledge and skills of national structures and institutions (National Governing Councils, training and research institutions, civil society organizations, national focal points, civil servants, parliamentarians) to conduct sound self-assessment	(IA1.1) Increased number of beneficiary countries that have conducted African Peer Review Mechanism self-assessments (IA1.2) Increased number of African countries acceding to the African Peer Review Mechanism
(EA2) Enhanced capacity of national planning and finance departments to incorporate the national programmes of action into existing national development plans and strategies (poverty reduction strategy programmes, medium-term expenditure frameworks and national budgets)	(IA2.1) Increased number of beneficiary countries that have incorporated the national programmes of action into existing national development plans and strategies
(EA3) Strengthening capacity of National Governing Councils to monitor and report the implementation of national programmes of action to the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat	(IA3.1) Increased number of beneficiary countries that have prepared and submitted annual progress reports which follow the validated monitoring and evaluation and reporting guidelines, to heads of State

Main activities

156. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conduct six training workshops for national stakeholders in African Peer Review Mechanism countries in order to effectively implement the process in an effective and timely manner;

(A1.2) Conduct three regional sensitization workshops for non-African Peer Review Mechanism countries (mainly North Africa, southern Africa and Central and West Africa) and regional stakeholders (e.g. Intergovernmental Authority on Development, South African Development Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA));

(A1.3) Provide technical assistance to six countries members of the African Peer Review Mechanism, specifically on conducting the external country reviews;

(A2.1) Provide technical assistance to national planning and finance departments and National Governing Councils on the use of the framework for harmonizing the African Peer Review Mechanism-national programmes of action and other national plans with a common medium-term expenditure framework;

(A2.2) Develop an e-learning module on harmonizing the national programme of action with national development plans for African Peer Review Mechanism-country civil servants and other stakeholders;

(A3.1) Develop/update a guideline on monitoring and evaluation of and reporting on the implementation of the national programmes of action;

(A3.2) Conduct one expert group meeting to validate the guideline on monitoring and evaluation and reporting of the implementation of the national programmes of action with the participation of the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, some African Peer Review Mechanism eminent personalities, the Board of African Peer Review Mechanism national focal points and National Governing Councils from selected African Peer Review Mechanism countries;

(A3.3) Organize one regional training for National Governing Councils and national focal points from all African Peer Review Mechanism countries on the use of the guidelines on monitoring and evaluation and reporting;

(A3.4) Create an African Peer Review Mechanism interactive portal to disseminate best practices arising from country reports.

AC. Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition

Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ($533,000)

Background

157. Sustainable housing means that everyone has a choice of housing types and tenures at reasonable cost within inclusive and well-served neighbourhoods; well-equipped, good quality, safe and healthy housing; and energy efficient and eco-friendly homes.

158. Countries with economies in transition face many common challenges: (a) rental markets are underdeveloped and there is often only a limited provision of social housing and/or subsidy systems in place for low-income households; (b) regularization of the management structure for multifamily housing blocks remains a challenge; and (c) the housing sector is characterized by relatively low standards of energy efficiency.

159. As a result of these social, environmental, organizational and financial challenges, countries with economies in transition have seen a growing degradation and deterioration of their housing stock. It is clear that the market alone cannot solve these issues if it is not supported by purposeful Government policies based on a dialogue and partnership with all key stakeholders.

160. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) recognized the need to promote sustainable development policies that support inclusive housing and social services, and a safe and healthy living environment for all. Many countries with economies in transition cannot adequately respond to these interconnected issues. They lack the capacity both to develop and to implement integrated national policies for sustainable housing.

161. The project aims to address this problem by assisting national Governments in selected economies in transition in realizing a sustainable housing sector by promoting the development and implementation of policies through the generation of national action plans for sustainable housing, which will contain blueprints for further reforms of the countries' housing sectors, and by building capacity in sustainable housing through the provision of advisory services and the organization of workshops. The national action plans for sustainable housing will draw on conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) country profiles on the housing sector, which constitute a strategic analysis of countries' housing sectors and include specific policy recommendations on the improvement of the housing policies. An interministerial coordination group will be set up in each selected beneficiary country as a platform for overseeing the development and implementation of the national action plans. The proposed beneficiaries of the project are Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan.

162. ECE will lead the project in partnership with UN-Habitat, drawing on the existing regional networks. ECE will contribute with its expertise on housing standards, management of housing stock, energy efficiency, land management and real estate markets. UN-Habitat will contribute with its expertise on urban management and planning, tenure and informal settlements, building materials and participatory planning.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition to support the realization of Rio+20 commitments and the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic development in Europe subprogramme 8 (Housing, land management and population); Human settlements subprogramme 1 (Urban legislation, land and governance); subprogramme 2 (Urban planning and design); subprogramme 5 (Housing and slum upgrading); Millennium Development Goal 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	20.0
Consultants	160.8
Travel	87.0
Contractual services	42.0
Operating expenses	8.0
Workshops/training	215.2
Total	**533.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Strengthened national capacity of beneficiary countries to develop policies for sustainable housing	(IA1.1) National action plans for the implementation of sustainability measures in the residential sector are adopted in beneficiary countries
(EA2) Strengthened national capacity of beneficiary countries to implement policies for sustainable housing through interministerial coordination	(IA2.1) Interministerial coordination groups, as a platform to guide the development and implementation of the national action plan for sustainable housing, are established in beneficiary countries
(EA3) Strengthened national capacity of other countries in the ECE region to develop policies for sustainable housing through application of the project's lessons learned	(IA3.1) National action plans for the implementation of sustainability measures in the residential sector are initiated in at least two other countries in the ECE region

Main activities

163. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize four joint ECE/UN-Habitat national workshops to provide training in sustainable housing;

(A1.2) Organize four advisory missions by ECE to map the situation in the four beneficiary countries, assess weaknesses to be addressed, discuss project implementation, work on national action plans and provide advice on the establishment of the interministerial coordination groups;

(A1.3) Develop national action plans for sustainability measures in the residential sector in the beneficiary countries in consultation with the interministerial coordination group members,

(A1.4) Organize four national validation workshops to review draft chapters of the respective national action plans with members of the interministerial coordination group and relevant stakeholders;

(A2.1) Organize four national workshops in the beneficiary countries to launch the national action plans, provide training and share best practices on implementation and monitoring of implementation of the action plans;

(A3.1) Develop guidelines on the preparation and implementation of national action plans for sustainable housing on the basis of experiences and lessons learned from the beneficiary countries;

(A3.2) Organize a regional meeting to share lessons learned on the preparation and follow-up of national action plans and the set-up of interministerial coordination groups among the beneficiary countries and other countries in the region.

AD. Strengthening capacity in the most vulnerable countries in the Economic Commission for Europe region for the sustainable development of statistics

Economic Commission for Europe ($535,000)

Background

164. Countries with economies in transition in the ECE region have been confronted with the rapid and complete transformation of their national statistical systems over the past 20 years. The provision of timely, reliable and internationally comparable statistics remains a major challenge for producers of official statistics in the region, with further development of statistical capacities requiring a series of adjustments on the institutional, organizational and technical levels.

165. The project reflects the call of the Rio+20 summit to provide support to Governments in integrating relevant data into national statistics and complies with requests of the statistical authorities of the beneficiary countries.

166. The project will build on global assessments of national statistical systems conducted from 2010 to 2012 in Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries by ECE and partner organizations (Eurostat, the European Free Trade Association and the World Bank), which include key findings and recommendations on countries' capacities to produce internationally compliant statistics for achieving the sustainable development of official statistics. Global assessments provide in-depth and comprehensive analyses of the institutional, organizational and technical capacity of countries to produce statistics in compliance with international standards, and suggest concrete recommendations for the sustainable development of national statistical capacities. In the framework of this project, findings and recommendations from the global assessments will be clearly identified, developed and finally approved by the relevant national authorities. In order to implement them in a coordinated and sustainable way, recommendations will be incorporated into the existing multi-year (strategic) and annual (operational) statistical work programmes of each beneficiary country. In countries where the World Bank, jointly with national authorities, is developing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, recommendations will be incorporated into the National Strategy. National statistical work programmes, including National Strategy, will serve as a framework for the coordination of technical assistance and for mobilizing financial resources from international and bilateral donors. The project will provide support to producers of official statistics in eight beneficiary countries (Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan) in addressing these gaps, allowing for the monitoring of their economic, social and environmental reforms.

167. During the implementation phase, ECE will provide advisory services and organize national and subregional workshops and training seminars, in particular on the development of web-based dissemination and communication tools and strategies. The project will draw on existing mechanisms and established partnerships with national and international statistical agencies under the Conference of European Statisticians. Targeted countries will also benefit from the experience and good practice in the recent development of national statistical systems of other Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the national capacity of the most vulnerable ECE countries for sustainable development of statistics through the implementation of recommendations from the global assessments **Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals**: Economic development in Europe subprogramme 3 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goals 1-8	**Summary budget** (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	General temporary assistance	40.0
	Consultants	81.0
	Travel	72.0
	Contractual services	25.0
	Operating expenses	6.0
	Equipment	43.0
	Workshops/training	268.0
	Total	**535.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Recommendations from global assessments are endorsed by relevant national authorities and incorporated into the multi-year (strategic) and annual (operational) statistical programmes of work	(IA1.1) Target countries have incorporated the recommendations of global assessments into their statistical programmes of work and their National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
(EA2) Strengthened capacities of the target countries to build sustainable institutional, organizational and technical capacities for collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating statistical information in line with the recommendations incorporated into the national statistical programmes	(IA2.1) Increased volume of internationally comparable statistics (data), including methodological notes and quality reports (metadata), available on the respective national statistical websites of target countries

Main activities

168. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize eight advisory missions to assist national statistical authorities of beneficiary countries in the formulation and inclusion of the recommendations in their respective statistical programmes of work;

(A2.1) Organize four subregional workshops/training seminars to share best practices among target countries in improving efficiency and effectiveness (streamlining) of production processes from data collection to the dissemination of official statistics, including two workshops with all Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries;

(A2.2) Organize 12 national workshops/training seminars (1 or 2 per beneficiary country, depending on country needs), combined with advisory missions, to assist target countries in building sustainable capacities for collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating internationally comparable statistics, including the set-up and maintenance of online dissemination databases and user-friendly data extraction software;

(A2.3) Organize eight advisory missions to beneficiary countries to conduct follow-up assessments of progress made and to identify remaining gaps.

AE. Strengthening the capacity of transitional and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chains

Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($440,000)

Background

169. In many developing and transition economies, agricultural trade is the backbone of sustained social and economic development. The emergence of innovative agricultural supply chains and the latest approaches to improve supply chain management provide new business and income opportunities, in particular for rural communities, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and for women. Access to international agricultural supply chains remains a challenge for traders from transition economies. According to a study carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), one third of the world's food production is lost and wasted every year. Research from the Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology has suggested that over 1 billion tons of food are lost worldwide owing to inefficiencies in the agrifood supply chain. The Secretary-General, in a report submitted to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), stressed the importance of streamlined supply chain processes and the reduction of waste for sustainable development of agricultural trade and environmental protection.

170. Government officials and private sector managers in many developing countries and economies in transition are not aware of the latest standards, instruments and best practices that are available to address core structural and regulatory gaps that prevent efficient participation in global trade. The proposed project will provide a method to identify and fill gaps in the collaboration of stakeholders in the supply chain, regulatory compliance and food quality, and promote the use of information technologies and data exchange. The project will help stakeholders to apply available international instruments and best practices developed by ECE, ESCAP, FAO and other organizations, and draw on experience and lessons learned from countries in the region. The project activities will also contribute to the implementation of important trade facilitation instruments discussed in the negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda, such as alignment of documents and information exchange in trade and regulatory compliance.

171. The project will help to analyse business processes from the farm to the point of export, highlight the shortcomings and show how the supply chain can be improved using standards and best practices. It will help decision makers and practitioners to increase export opportunities through better governance, development of sustainable business opportunities and regulatory compliance using electronic information exchange, enhanced and simplified processes, and improved quality of agricultural produce. In addition, the project will foster information and policy exchanges of decision makers during and beyond its life cycle. The training materials and guides developed under the project will be widely disseminated through the joint United Nations-regional commissions approach on trade facilitation.

172. The target group of the project will include Governments, traders, associations of rural producers and intermediaries of agricultural products in developing and transition economies in the ECE and ESCAP region. ESCAP, through its work with the Asian Development Bank, has extensive expertise in the integration of small- and medium-sized enterprises into agricultural trade, in particular in the greater Mekong Subregion. ECE has extensive competence in the development of agricultural quality standards, providing assistance to countries with the implementation of these standards and other related instruments, in particular business process analysis for supply chains and agricultural quality standards. Two countries from each region will be selected for project pilots. In its work on these measures, ECE worked closely with WTO, the International Trade Centre and UNCTAD.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected target countries with economies in transition and developing countries to improve the planning, management and regulation of cross-border agricultural food supply chains in order to support enhanced competitiveness and improved food security

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic development in Europe subprogramme 6 (Trade); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 2 (Trade and investment); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	100.0
Travel	45.0
Contractual services	21.0
Operating expenses	7.0
Workshops/training	267.0
Total	**440.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Enhanced understanding and knowledge among public and private sector stakeholders of the latest international standards and best practices for trade facilitation, efficient regulation, information exchange and agriculture food quality in global trade	(IA1.1) Increased number of decision makers from Government agencies and the private sector who understand international standards and best practices for sustainable agricultural food supply chains
(EA2) Increased capacity of public and private sector stakeholders to apply standards and best practices in the development of national and sectoral strategies to improve access to sustainable international agricultural food supply chains and to increase export opportunities	(IA2.1) Number of new trade facilitation tools, instruments and international standards in use or planned for use to more efficiently plan and manage agricultural supply chains, as evidenced by policy and procedural changes
(EA3) Strengthened capacity of policymakers and practitioners to exchange experiences and best practices for facilitating enhanced agricultural food supply chains	(IA3.1) Increased exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned on improving agricultural supply chains through the regional network of experts

Main activities

173. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop training materials on international standards and approaches for trade in agrifood supply chains for stakeholders in developing countries and transition economies;

(A2.1) Develop a guide for the assessment of bottlenecks in agricultural supply chains for the improvement of trade efficiency and food quality;

(A2.2) Prepare case studies which analyse priority agrifood supply chains in selected countries and show how the application of standards and best practices can improve these supply chains;

(A2.3) Organize four national capacity-building workshops in the project's target countries for policymakers, traders and producers, on standards and best practices and to provide assistance to countries for analysing priority agrifood supply chains, identifying bottlenecks and developing plans to improve these supply chains through the use of international instruments;

(A3.1) Organize an international expert group meeting for the enhancement of agrifood supply chains and conduct two meetings for the exchange of experiences and solutions between the regions;

(A3.2) Organize a concluding regional workshop to present and disseminate the project outcomes and ensure the use of project deliverables after its completion by both private and public sector stakeholders as well as the regional expert network. At the request of member countries, ECE and ESCAP can integrate this agricultural supply chain-oriented expert group into the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific framework, which would provide Internet-based tools and meetings for the continuation of work.

AF. Strengthening the capacity of Governments and water operators to ensure equity of access to water and sanitation in countries in transition in the Economic Commission for Europe region, with a particular focus on small-scale water supplies and sanitation in rural areas

Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the World Health Organization ($578,000)

Background

174. In the pan-European region 12 per cent of the population, nearly 110 million people, do not have access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation. The situation is particularly severe in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The lack of access to water and sanitation is compounded by inequity: vulnerable and marginalized groups often face specific barriers, such as the lack of affordability. Access to water and sanitation is also lower in rural areas compared to urban areas. In South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia more than 30 per cent of the total population live in rural areas, in which small-scale water supplies prevail. The provision of safe drinking water of sufficient quantity frequently represents a challenge to these small-scale water supplies. Experience has shown that they are more vulnerable to breakdown and contamination than larger utilities, and that they require particular political attention owing to their administrative, managerial or resourcing specifics.

175. In the Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The future we want", Governments reiterated the importance of integrating water in sustainable development and underlined the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development. Governments also reaffirmed their commitments made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration regarding to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (Millennium Development Goal 7).

176. The Protocol on Water and Health of ECE and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe is the first international agreement of its kind adopted specifically to attain an adequate supply of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for everyone through the sustainable management of water resources and the development of policies and measures focusing on the nexus between water and health. The Protocol provides a framework for the application of

policy and measures to promote equitable access to water and sanitation. In the area of small-scale water supplies and sanitation, the Protocol promotes policy and measures aimed at increasing the safe management of such installations (e.g. risk management approaches, training of operators, improvement of water monitoring and disease surveillance).

177. The project is designed to provide support for the efforts of policymakers, decision makers and water operators in reviewing and, where appropriate, replicating existing approaches, and putting in place new or additional measures to ensure the universal access to water and sanitation, through the mobilization of resources from all sources, capacity-building and technology. The project is also intended to promote the integration of environmental and social considerations within the mainstream of economic decision-making as a prerequisite to paving the way towards a green economy.

178. Beneficiaries of the project will be countries with economies in transition in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Tajikistan and the Ukraine). Six of 12 proposed beneficiary countries are parties to the Protocol on Water and Health. All the other countries are envisaging accession and are currently at different stages of the process. The target stakeholder groups consist of national and local Government officials as well as water operators. The project will be executed by ECE, in collaboration with WHO Europe. WHO Europe will focus on the health-related aspects of the project, providing support for it with its expertise and network.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen capacity of national and local authorities as well as water operators to develop policies and measures aimed at providing access to clean and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation in economies in transition in the ECE region, with a particular focus on small-scale water supplies and sanitation in rural areas

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic Development in Europe subprogramme 1 (Environment); Millennium Development Goals 4 and 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	48.0
Consultants	144.0
Travel	42.0
Contractual services	294.0
Workshops/training	50.0
Total	**578.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Improved capacity of national and local authorities in economies in transition in the ECE region to develop innovative policies and measures aimed at providing equitable access to water and sanitation, building on the Protocol on Water and Health	(IA1.1) Increased number of policies and measures at the national and local levels to enhance equity of access to clean and safe drinking water, and adequate sanitation
	(IA1.2) Increased number of countries reporting on the progress in ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation through the reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health

(EA2) Improved capacity of national and local authorities as well as water operators in economies in transition in the ECE region to address the challenges of small-scale water supplies and sanitation in national and local development policies	(IA2.1) Increased number of development policies formulated to achieve access to water and sanitation in rural areas through small-scale water supply and sanitation facilities (IA2.2) Increased number of countries reporting on the progress in managing small-scale water supply and sanitation facilities in rural areas through the reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health

Main activities

179. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize six country missions to review the situation in target countries in relation to access to water and sanitation, and implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, and to develop recommendations on the way forward;

(A1.2) Organize two national workshops in two of the beneficiary countries to provide guidance to policymakers, decision makers and other concerned actors in developing policies and measures aimed at ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation;

(A1.3) Organize a regional workshop to provide guidance to policymakers, decision makers and other concerned actors in developing policies and measures aimed at ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation, and to promote the exchange of experiences in the region;

(A1.4) Organize a regional workshop to assist countries in their reporting obligations under the Protocol on Water and Health and, at the same time, streamline efforts with the post-2015 sustainable development goals and reporting;

(A2.1) Organize two national workshops in two of the beneficiary countries to provide guidance to policymakers and decision makers in addressing the specific challenges of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, and to promote the exchange between national and local authorities, and private and public operators on the management of small-scale water supplies. The beneficiary countries will be selected on the basis of demands, needs and commitment to work in this area, as expressed in the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health;

(A2.2) Organize a regional workshop to provide guidance to policymakers and decision makers in addressing the specific challenges of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems;

(A2.3) Develop guidance and promotion material on access to water and sanitation in rural areas through small-scale water supply and sanitation facilities, and the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

AG. Strengthening the technical capacity of public finance managers in select Caribbean small island developing States to manage their public finances

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($492,000)

Background

180. The recent global economic crisis had a particularly severe impact on the economies of the Caribbean, especially those that depend heavily on services for their economic growth. The aggregate cost of the crisis for the region has been estimated at 13.5 per cent of GDP in 2009 and, for many economies, positive growth only occurred in 2011. Unlike many countries in Latin and Central America, Governments of the region could not employ significant fiscal stimuli because they are constrained by limited fiscal space.

181. It is important to note, however, that the reduced fiscal space has been a long-standing problem which has only been aggravated by recent economic conditions. Chronic fiscal deficit leading to high public debt is one of the most important development challenges facing Caribbean small island developing States. For instance, the average fiscal deficit and public debt levels were 3.4 per cent and 84.4 per cent of GDP, respectively, from 2000 to 2007. Moreover, four countries had debt levels in excess of 100 per cent of GDP.

182. A variety of strategies have been employed to address the challenges, but with little success, because of the limited capacity of public sector technocrats to manage and forecast public expenditure and revenue, two essential factors for controlling fiscal imbalances and high debt. Furthermore, improved expenditure and revenue management are crucial for maintaining or improving systems of social protection.

183. Moreover, the ongoing fiscal crisis in the Caribbean has forced some countries to adopt either International Monetary Fund (IMF) or home-grown stabilization programmes. This has led to marginal improvements in the fiscal deficit and debt in some countries in 2011. Nevertheless, the average deficit and debt remain elevated at 3.8 per cent and 69 per cent of GDP, respectively. The counterpart of high debt is increasing debt service payments, which absorb scarce resources that could have been used for public investment.

184. The persistent fiscal and debt problem in the region is in part a reflection of procyclical fiscal policy, where Governments spend excessively during booms and are forced to retrench during downturns. However, it also reflects institutional weaknesses related to limited capacity for effectively managing public expenditure and matching this with revenues. In addition, systems for revenue and expenditure forecasting and debt management remain weak and ineffective in a number of countries, in particular as they relate to containing contingent liabilities.

185. Given the number of countries and the extent of the problems, the Caribbean requires a broad regional programme of capacity-building to strengthen public finance management in order to control fiscal deficits and debt. It is within this context that this project would seek to strengthen the capacity of the small island developing States of the Caribbean to effectively manage their public expenditure, revenue and debt so as to reduce the challenge that they present to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. At the last two Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee intergovernmental meetings and the Caribbean Development Roundtable, a number of ministers requested ECLAC assistance in dealing with the challenge of fiscal imbalance and large debt burdens. Six countries were chosen as beneficiaries of the project (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis)

based on the seriousness of their fiscal imbalances and debt, and limitations in their fiscal management capacity.

Objective of the Organization: To increase the capacity of policymakers and public finance managers of select Caribbean small island developing States to apply methods and procedures for better management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 13 (Subregional activities in the Caribbean); Millennium Development Goal 1

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	15.0
Consultants	150.0
Travel	64.0
Contractual services	26.0
Workshops/training	237.0
Total	**492.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased knowledge and skills of public finance managers in managing and forecasting public expenditure and revenue	(IA1.1) Increased number of public finance practitioners who apply the skills and techniques acquired from the workshops in day to day fiscal management, including the use of the reference guide
	(IA1.2) At least 75 per cent of workshop participants acknowledge their capacity to manage and forecast Government expenditure and revenue
(EA2) Improved administrative systems and infrastructure in selected countries to ensure sustainable revenue and expenditure management operations	(IA2.1) At least six pilot countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis) have implemented a framework for including the programmes and techniques of the training in their public finance management systems

Main activities

186. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Undertake a study and assessment of the skills and knowledge of the selected public finance managers and the processes and procedures that they employ in their work;

(A1.2) Develop a training manual (informed by the findings of the assessment) that contains specific guidelines and techniques on cash management, expenditure control, revenue and expenditure forecasting for use during the workshop, and develop a comprehensive reference guide for future use by trainees in their daily operational activities;

(A1.3) Conduct six regional training workshops in different areas of managing and forecasting public expenditure and revenue, such as budget execution and procurement, tax and revenue administration, financial programming and forecasting, and expenditure control and cash management. Each workshop will address a different aspect of expenditure and revenue management;

(A1.4) Organize technical advisory missions to the countries to provide more specific assistance and capacity development to foster sustainability;

(A2.1) Conduct national seminars to enhance policymakers' understanding of the need to commit financial and technical resources to strengthen their institutional systems, and provide guidelines for public finance policymakers on how to incorporate methods and techniques of training in their public finance management systems;

(A2.2) Organize technical advisory missions to the countries and provide more specific assistance on strengthening their institutional systems.

AH. Promoting inclusive finance through development banking innovation practices to support social, productive development and structural change in Latin American countries, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($502,000)

Background

187. In the publication entitled *Time for equality: closing gaps, opening trails* (2010), ECLAC laid the groundwork for a development agenda based on equality as a strategic development goal. This agenda was deepened and broadened in a follow-up publication, entitled *Structural change for equality: an integrated approach to development* (2012), which argued that achieving greater levels of equality required putting qualitative changes in the production structure at the centre of the growth dynamic.

188. Designing and constructing inclusive and production-oriented financial systems can play an important role in this development agenda. To that end, the countries of the region require strong public institutions, together with prudent and countercyclical regulations. A key element is the strengthening of public development banking institutions in the region to foster financial inclusion through new and innovative practices and instruments. Financial inclusion refers to the efforts and initiatives oriented to (a) grant access to financial services by those segments of the population that are not part of the formal financial system and (b) improve and perfect the use of the financial system for those that are already part of the formal financial system.

189. Financial inclusion remains a pending task in Latin America. In the case of small and medium-sized enterprises, the financial system is used mainly for deposits and means of payments rather than as a vehicle to foster investment and develop their productive potential. National development banks can play an important role in filling this gap by promoting financial inclusion. Promoting the internal mobilization of funds and financial inclusion requires a set of economic and financial policies to develop financial markets and the development of new instruments for small and medium-sized enterprises, since they are key players within the productive fabric and in terms of job creation.

190. National development banks can play an important role in promoting and expanding financial inclusion through three channels: innovation in financial products; innovation in financial processes; and the strengthening of interconnectivity with the rest of the financial system, including commercial banks. Fulfilling the project's objectives requires including and addressing

both the innovation in financial products and financial processes as important channels for promoting financial access and inclusiveness. Expanding and promoting the role of development banks is also part of the agenda proposed in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want", where the need is recognized for significant mobilization of resources for sustainable development (General Assembly resolution 66/288, para. 54) by strengthening national, regional and subregional development banks.

191. Hence, the objective and scope of the project will focus on the need to foster the development of a wider array of financial instruments that will permit development banks to play a more active and visible role in promoting financial inclusion, particularly focused on the small and medium-sized enterprise sector of the economy. Placing the focus on small and medium-sized enterprise development is fundamental for Latin America and the Caribbean since these firms are key players within the productive fabric and in terms of job creation. In implementing this project ECLAC will collaborate with ESCAP to share and compare best practices of development banking in Asia and Latin America, and with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on inclusive finance and the role of development banks.

Objective of the Organization: To support national development banks of Latin American countries to strengthen inclusiveness of public financial systems and to promote productive development with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 4 (Financing for development); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	28.0
Consultants	140.0
Expert group meeting	45.0
Travel	50.0
Contractual services	29.0
Operating expenses	10.0
Workshops/training	200.0
Total	**502.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Strengthened public financial policies to promote financial inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises	(IA1.1) Satisfaction from public officials and other targeted beneficiaries regarding the extent to which the component's recommendations contribute to strengthen public financial policies
(EA2) Improved financial instruments by Latin American and Caribbean development banking systems to mobilize resources for productive development	(IA2.1) Increased number of national development banks designing strategies to enhance capacity to improve their financial instruments and practices for financial inclusion for small and medium-sized enterprises in line with ECLAC recommendations

Main activities

192. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Prepare national studies in at least four countries in the region (tentatively Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico) focusing on the state of financial innovation in development banks. The studies would address the possible avenues for complementarity with commercial banking and the development of new financial instruments (such as guarantee schemes, venture capital, securitization and factoring). The studies will provide policy recommendations to strengthen the capacity of development banks;

(A1.2) Convene four 2-day national seminars, with 20 to 30 participants, including national development bank officials from around the country, to present and discuss the case studies (tentatively Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico) and define follow-up actions and guidelines for policy recommendations;

(A2.1) Prepare a comparative regional study of Latin American countries included in the project focusing on best practices on how to foster inclusive finance through development banks. This activity will include the identification of an instrument toolkit and financial processes to strengthen and widen financial access;

(A2.2) Convene a two-day regional workshop with the aim of focusing more intensely on the four project countries (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico) from a regional comparative perspective. The workshop will highlight and identify best operational practices in development banking and their applicability to the different countries. It is the intention of the workshop also to include international expertise in order to bring to light the challenges other countries outside the region have faced in the application of best practices for financial inclusion, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises;

(A2.3) Provide technical assistance to discuss and recommend measures to strengthen the development banking institutions and the instrument toolkit for financial innovation, for inclusion in selected Latin American countries. These measures and the instrument toolkit will be discussed and analysed in an expert group meeting.

AI. Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($862,000)

Background

193. Central banks and national statistics offices in the ECLAC and ESCAP regions are increasingly requesting the provision of support to modernize and expand their national accounts programmes and strengthen the elaboration of environmental economic accounts. To respond to this growing demand for technical assistance and support, regional action plans should be elaborated to be used as general reference frameworks in addressing the problems countries are facing in modernizing their basic statistics systems and their actual accounting rules.

194. The insufficient coverage of economic and environmental statistics is common to almost all Latin American and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries. There are common factors in the two regions that impede the consolidation of the production of basic economic and environmental statistics and hence the compilation of accounts. Consequently, there are several advantages in working on regional strategies to overcome these difficulties, such as (a) creating economies of scale and multiplier effects in relation to activities, resources and results, (b) strengthening national and regional expertise through networking and knowledge-sharing, (c) building a collective vision, strategy and action plan by capitalizing on advances made by more experienced countries as opposed to each country working in isolation and (d) improving access to documentation, standards, tools and technical experience by working collaboratively.

195. The main objective of the project consists in the design and implementation of a regional strategy to improve the coverage and quality of national and environmental accounts, and to strengthen the production of the basic statistics needed to compile the accounts and inform the formulation of public policies in support of sustainable development. This strategy would be divided into four stages: (a) review or diagnostics (assessment of the current situation in all participating countries), (b) regional adaptation (development of a regional plan), (c) national adaptation (design and implementation of a national action plan), and (d) regional implementation (commitment from the regional commissions to coordinate the work).

196. Given that the implementation of the international standards and recommendations on national and environmental accounting in the two regions is heterogeneous, the more advanced countries can support the lesser advanced ones through horizontal cooperation. Moreover, the collective action and use of economies of scale can help those countries with limited resources to obtain benefits that otherwise would not be attainable. Taken separately, the two regions show different levels of statistical development. The project takes into due consideration this fact so that actions will be scaled up in order to focus more on the definition of the national strategies, in the case of Latin American and Caribbean pilot countries, and more on technical assistance, training and advisory missions, in the case of Asia-Pacific countries.

197. Having an improved system of macroeconomic indicators that incorporate, among other things, environmental aspects (i.e. gross domestic product (GDP) adjusted for losses of natural capital), is of paramount importance for the formulation of evidence-based public policies in support of sustainable development. In this line, the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012 provide the framework the international standards need to respect when the system of macroeconomic and environmental indicators is being improved.

198. The countries participating in the project cover the three main geographic and language areas of the Latin America and Caribbean region (South America, Central America and the Caribbean), and include Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica and Uruguay. The four pilot countries in the Asia-Pacific region include two from Asia and two from the Pacific subregion.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the production and use of basic economic and environmental statistics derived from the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012 in the design of public policies, with the specific goal of ensuring sustainable development in the Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 11 (Statistics); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 7 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	30.0
Consultants	204.0
Travel	111.0
Contractual services	48.0
Operating expenses	11.0
Equipment	20.0
Workshops/training	438.0
Total	**862.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Adoption by select target Latin American and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries of a regional strategy for strengthening basic statistics for the compilation of national and environmental accounts	(IA1.1) The regional action plan for the development of basic statistics in national and environmental accounts is adopted and ratified by Latin American and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries participating in the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Committee on Statistics of ESCAP
	(IA1.2) At least 10 countries in the two regions develop national action plans with a view to strengthening basic statistics, and compile national and environmental accounts in line with international recommendations (System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012)
(EA2) Adoption by the target countries of the main international recommendations contained in the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012	(IA2.1) At least 10 countries in the two regions compile their national and environmental accounts according to the recommendations of the of the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012
(EA3) Increased awareness by policymakers of national and environmental accounts to inform the design of public policies aimed at ensuring sustainable development	(IA3.1) At least eight countries in the two regions have used economic and environmental indicators derived from the national and environmental accounts for the design of public policies

Main activities

199. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop 10 case studies containing an assessment of the status and progress of national and environmental accounts in the Latin American and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific pilot countries, and the basic economic and environmental statistics requirements;

(A1.2) Organize two regional workshops (one in the Latin America and Caribbean region and one in the Asia-Pacific region) in the first year of the project for staff of national statistical offices, central banks and ministries of environment to analyse the current status of national and environmental accounts (self-assessment), and to define and validate a strategy of implementation and follow-up at the national and regional levels for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012. Two additional follow-up regional workshops will be organized the final year of the project to present results and progress;

(A1.3) Organize 10 advisory missions to countries carried out by consultants and staff, aiming at assisting countries in the self-assessment, defining the national plans of action and starting the implementation of the main international recommendations in national and environmental statistics;

(A1.4) Organize an interregional workshop for staff of national statistical offices to share experiences, lessons learned from the development of the regional action plans for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012, and future strategies in the ECLAC and ESCAP regions;

(A2.1) Organize 16 intraregional study tours (horizontal cooperation) to draw on the strengths and achievements of the countries in the region, and to create opportunities for staff from statistically less developed countries to learn best practices and share experience from their peers with others in the region;

(A2.2) Develop a set of tools (toolkit) containing guidelines and best practices for the development and strengthening of macroeconomic and environmental statistics, and the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012. The toolkit will include guidelines for countries to develop their national implementation strategies. The tools will also include a minimum set of core statistics on national and environmental accounts common to the region that are of the utmost importance to monitor policies and interventions;

(A2.3) Organize two workshops (one per region) to discuss and finalize with countries the toolkit, and train participants (of non-pilot participating countries) to use the toolkit as an instrument for assessment in other countries (training-of-trainers);

(A3.1) Organize two awareness-building regional workshops for policymakers to promote the use of economic and environmental accounts in the formulation and analysis of socioeconomic policies;

(A3.2) Develop a document that illustrates how the indicators and information derived from the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts 2012 can be used to formulate socioeconomic policies.

AJ. Logistics integration for more sustainable exploitation of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($612,000)

Background

200. Latin American and Caribbean countries show significant limitations in providing infrastructure services, which could seriously affect future trade competitiveness and development in the region. In brief, the lack of infrastructures and their related services prevails, relevant public policies are multiple and disjointed, and in a majority of cases, there is an utter absence of sustainability criteria in the conception and design of projects. In spite of the recent progress in industrial structural change and economic development, the region, to a significant level, still relies on the export of natural resources and related products with low value added and little technological investment. In the traditional context, the countries have focused on ways to extract and transport their natural resources as quickly as possible towards their export destinations, thus reducing transport costs and gaining economies of scale as a way to improve competitiveness, rather than exploring the potential of adding value to these resources. The lack of national long-term development strategies and the absence of sustainability criteria have promoted inefficient transport and logistics chains. Thus, the sustained growth in demand for these products bears enormous negative externalities for society. Furthermore, the extraction-export-oriented logistics chains minimize the possibilities to develop industry clusters, such as traditional manufacturing, natural-resource-based or even more complex and knowledge-based clusters. This implies challenges for industry competitiveness and limits capturing value-added and economic returns from these export products and the expected positive social impacts. At the same time, the region is advancing in its efforts to improve physical integration, a process in which ECLAC has successfully promoted the development of logistics and infrastructure projects within a framework of regional integration policies during the last two bienniums.

201. In brief, Latin America and the Caribbean faces two very important challenges: (a) to change the process and traditional pattern of natural resources exploitation; and (b) to build a new kind of logistics infrastructure and integration process in order to proactively use natural resources for providing more dynamic support for inclusive development in the region. This project will focus on the second of these challenges. In recent years, ECLAC has received several requests from countries concerning infrastructure provision and logistics policies design that include a regional and sustainable perspective.

202. Consequently, the objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean Governments and the regional physical integration initiatives, such as CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), UNASUR/COSIPLAN (Union of South American Nations/South American Infrastructure and Planning Council) and Proyecto Mesoamerica (Mesoamerican Project), in designing and implementing integrated logistics policies to contribute to the more sustainable exploitation and use of natural resources and more equitable and inclusive development. The tentative focus of the project concerns four countries, one per subregion, including Ecuador (west coast of South America), Uruguay (east coast of South America), El Salvador (Central America) and one Caribbean country, in addition to other countries through the officers of the region's physical integration initiatives.

203. Many countries of the region are reorienting the geography of trade of their natural resources production towards the Asia-Pacific markets, making these countries some of the most important

and dynamic destinations for the natural resources exports of Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore, an increased interest from Latin American and Caribbean countries in the development of Asian logistics strategies can be observed, which is in turn paired with the increased interest of Asia-Pacific countries in infrastructure development projects and foreign direct investment in this sector in order to facilitate the interchange of natural resources between the two regions. As a response, the project will promote the sharing of experiences and good practices between the two regions in order to seek possibilities to develop natural-resource-based industry clusters, to explore knowledge synergies and to capture value-added and greater economic returns from the exported products and the expected positive social impacts.

204. The project will be led by the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in partnership with the Transport Division of ESCAP.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of select Latin American Governments and the region's major physical integration initiatives in designing and implementing logistics strategies and policy elements to contribute towards a more diversified use and sustainable exploitation of natural resources

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 9 (Natural resources and infrastructure); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 3 (Transport); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	24.0
Consultants	162.0
Travel	99.0
Contractual services	10.0
Operating expenses	7.0
Equipment	10.0
Workshops/training	300.0
Total	**612.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Increased understanding of policymakers in select countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and the countries' representatives in the physical integration initiatives, regarding the pivotal role of logistics for the more diversified use and sustainable exploitation of natural resources	(IA1.1) Policymakers in at least four Latin American and Caribbean countries indicate, through a survey, that they have improved their capacity to implement logistics strategies and policy elements for the more diversified use and sustainable exploitation of natural resources
(EA2) National infrastructure, transport and logistics strategies and policy elements developed and promoted by policymakers in the beneficiary Latin American and Caribbean countries	(IA2.1) Draft strategies and policy elements on national infrastructure, transport and logistics for sustainable exploitation of natural resources developed for at least four Latin American and Caribbean countries

Main activities

205. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Prepare and disseminate 10 thematic studies on the role of logistics for the more sustainable exploitation of natural resources and its impact on more equitable and inclusive development;

(A1.2) Launch a web-based toolkit of regional and international best logistics practices for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. The toolkit will help detect subregional logistics value chains, infrastructure constraints and synergies among countries or subregional integration initiatives. It will provide support to institutional capacity-building processes and will constitute a key and widely accessible dissemination tool beyond the project;

(A1.3) Organize national workshops to increase the understanding of national authorities and stakeholders about the pivotal role of logistics for the more diversified use and sustainable exploitation of natural resources. During these workshops, conducted in at least four Latin American and Caribbean countries, the national studies will be discussed and validated with the national authorities and private sector representatives;

(A2.1) Organize national training workshops to enhance the capacity of policymakers in at least four Latin American and Caribbean countries to design and implement logistics strategies and policies so as to contribute to the more sustainable exploitation of natural resources;

(A2.2) Provide technical assistance to policymakers in Latin American and Caribbean countries in designing and implementing logistics strategies and complementary policies for more sustainable natural resources exploitation with a regional perspective;

(A2.3) Organize a regional seminar to discuss with high-level national authorities the implementation of logistics strategies within a framework of regional common policies. This activity considers the participation of ESCAP officials to present the Asia-Pacific countries' perspective on logistics challenges and the possibility to develop natural-resource-based industry clusters or related innovative knowledge clusters.

AK. Strengthening national capacities to design and implement rights-based policies and programmes that address care of dependent populations and women's economic empowerment in urban areas

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ($564,000)

Background

206. Development in Latin America is characterized by structural heterogeneity, diverse forms of inequality (economic, social and gender inequality), high urbanization and the process of demographic transition. This particular combination of a growing and ageing urban population, in a region where, culturally, the majority of the care work is unpaid and undertaken by women, poses a particular challenge for public policies that address access by dependent populations to quality care

services. With a view to strengthening national and local capacities to respond to these challenges, this project aims at producing regional evidence on the benefits of investing in policies and programmes that address care of dependent populations and women's economic empowerment as part of urban development.

207. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", Governments recognized that informal unpaid work, performed mostly by women, contributes substantially to human well-being and sustainable development. Moreover, Governments committed themselves to promote the role of women as drivers of sustainable development, noting that this potential has not yet been fully recognized owing to persistent social, economic and political inequalities.

208. There is evidence that investments in social care infrastructure could make a decisive impact on more equitable development. Recent simulation studies in South Africa and the United States of America, undertaken by the Levy Economics Institute, showed that investment in social care delivery, by shifting parts of unpaid care work to paid work, generates more than twice the number of jobs compared to investment in infrastructure owing to the higher labour intensity of care work. There is also evidence that investment in care infrastructure can produce substantial gains in gender equity by, on the one hand, reducing the burden of unpaid care activities by women and, on the other, expanding income-earning opportunities for women who tend to be employed in these kinds of services.

209. This project will focus on six cities in six Latin American countries, which will be selected on the basis of a conceptual framework that takes into account the size of the city and the type of public care intervention. With a view to providing support to countries in identifying new sustainable development objectives as part of the post-2015 development agenda, the project will build national and local capacities, and provide new evidence concerning the benefits of investing in policies and programmes that address the care of dependent populations and women's economic empowerment as part of urban development. Furthermore, the project will strengthen the capacity of "mechanisms for the advancement of women" (Beijing Declaration) to articulate their views with their counterparts in other ministries in order to mainstream gender into decisions and policies regarding the provision of care services for dependent populations (children, the elderly and the disabled).

210. The project will be executed by the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, in collaboration with the Division for Sustainable Development and Human Settlements. Collaboration will also be sought from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UN-Habitat, with a view to integrating their experience and technical capacities in this area.

Objective of the Organization: To support Governments in the design and implementation of rights-based policies and programmes that address the care of dependent populations (children, the elderly and the disabled) and women's economic empowerment, in urban areas

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 6 (Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development); Millennium Development Goal 3

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	45.0
Consultants	172.0
Expert group meeting	25.0
Travel	84.0
Contractual services	22.0
Operating expenses	70.0
Workshops/training	146.0
Total	**564.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased awareness and knowledge of policymakers and other stakeholders in select target cities in Latin America of the importance of rights-based policies that address care of dependent populations and women's economic empowerment	(IA1.1) At least four countries adopt the methodology and endorse the findings and recommendations, produced through the project, on the costs and benefits of investing in care services and the best practices on the implementation of rights-based services for dependent populations with a gender perspective
(EA2) Increased capacity of technical staff and decision makers in selected countries to design and implement rights-based policies and programmes aimed at the care of dependent populations and the attainment of women's economic autonomy in urban areas	(IA2.1) Trained technical staff and decision makers acknowledge increased awareness, knowledge and skills to design and implement rights-based policies and programmes for the provision of care services with a gender perspective
	(IA2.2) At least three countries adopt new rights-based measures that both address the care needs of dependent populations and promote the economic empowerment of women

Main activities

211. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Research, publication and dissemination of a regional study to develop a methodology on the socioeconomic costs and benefits of investing in programmes and services for the care of dependent populations, which also explores best practices with regard to the implementation of rights-based care services for dependent populations with a gender perspective, including recommendations for public policies in this area;

(A1.2) Prepare six case studies that focus on one city each, to analyse the socioeconomic costs and benefits of providing care services for dependent populations, and to explore best practices with regard to the implementation of rights-based care services for dependent populations with a gender perspective;

(A1.3) Organize one regional expert meeting to validate the methodology/results of the study on costs and benefits of investing in care services and to explore best practices with regard to the implementation of rights-based care services for dependent populations with a gender perspective;

(A2.1) Organize two technical assistance missions in each of the target countries/cities (12 in total) to provide support to strategic partners, including national mechanisms for the advancement of women, ministries and local authorities responsible for investments and the implementation of care services, and assess and strengthen national capacities to integrate a gender perspective in the provision of care services;

(A2.2) Develop a toolkit with policy recommendations and best practices on policies and programmes that address the care of dependent populations and women's economic empowerment;

(A2.3) Develop and implement one e-learning course aimed at policymakers and technical staff from local and national authorities on integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of care services;

(A2.4) Organize six national workshops aimed at national mechanisms for the advancement of women, ministries responsible for investment/economy/social policy, municipal authorities and other relevant sectoral ministries to present the studies prepared through the project, and identify key challenges and recommendations for policies that address both the provision of care services and women's economic empowerment;

(A2.5) Carry out a survey of decision makers, technical staff and service-users in the selected cities and countries on integrating a gender perspective in the provision of care services for dependent populations. The survey will be implemented at the beginning and end of the project to assess its impact on target stakeholders and provide input for further policy development;

(A2.6) Organize one regional and one international seminar with experts and national authorities from countries participating in the project to strengthen national capacities, provide training in the methodology developed and share knowledge on regional experiences on implementing policies that address the care needs of dependent populations and promote women's economic autonomy.

AL. Enhancing the contribution of preferential trade agreements to inclusive and equitable trade

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($742,000)

Background

212. There is no doubt that Asia-Pacific as a region has benefited from trade and investment over the last 50 years. Within this period of time, the region has been transformed into the most dynamic powerhouse of the world economy, with marked structural transformation and improvements in life expectancy and absolute and relative poverty levels. However, these overall successes mask a sharp variation between winners and losers from trade and investment among countries and territories within countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked countries and economies in transition. These trends are detectable in other regions as well, especially in Latin America and Africa.

213. This disparate access to and utilization of the benefits of trade has been exacerbated by a marked change in the approach to trade and investment liberalization. During most of the last half century of trade-led growth, Governments have relied firstly on unilateral and then on multilateral trade liberalization based on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. However, since the late 1990s, Governments have started to embrace preferential trade liberalization so much that there are currently more than 230 preferential trade agreements in force and reported to WTO, with possibly 100 more that are under implementation without being reported. On average, countries in the Asia-Pacific region implement over seven preferential trade agreements each, while some developing countries have more than 20 such agreements. Each agreement is signed with the intention to expand trade and contribute to the employment, production and welfare of partner countries. However, in reality, such agreements have not necessarily produced trade expansion or, more

importantly, enhanced productive employment, provided higher wages or improved income distribution. While unilateral and multilateral freer trade has always been thought of as producing a net positive welfare effect, the way in which trade liberalization is achieved through preferential trade agreements may pose problems, in particular for least developed countries which have not been traditionally involved in such agreements. In fact, developing countries are often hamstrung by their lack of resources to conduct modelling of the economic effects of potential preferential trade agreements and by their incapacity to fully grasp the consequences of increasingly common preferential trade agreement provisions, such as intellectual property or competition and government procurement clauses, which are not directly related to trade.

214. This project will focus on building capacity to formulate and implement preferential trade policies and agreements to enhance employment and strengthen positive impacts on social security and well-being. It will provide support to both the public and private sectors for changing the policy environment and business models so as to help reverse the spread of negative trends affecting socially sustainable and inclusive development and to ensure that fair and equitable growth can get back on track. The most significant tangible output of the project will be to enhance government capacity to formulate preferential trade policies that result in more equitable sharing of the benefits of trade, higher employment dividends and the creation of productive employment. These effects will spring from strengthened understanding of preferential trade agreements, their liberalizing and regulatory content, and their potential impacts on socioeconomic outcomes on the part of negotiators and government officials involved in the formulation of trade and investment policies.

215. The project will focus on six pilot countries that exhibit the most urgent demand for assistance and support.[6] In order to provide a larger and more sustainable impact, all materials created for evidence-based policymaking and other capacity-building programmes will be made publicly available in a user-friendly format through knowledge-sharing platforms.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of Governments in selected least developed and low-income developing countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa to use preferential trade agreements to ensure that trade activities contribute towards equitable growth and shared prosperity for all social groups

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 2 (Trade and investment); subprogramme 6 (Social development); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 5 (Regional integration, infrastructure and trade); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 1 (Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation); subprogramme 5 (Social development and equality); subprogramme 6 (Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development); Trade and development subprogramme 1 (Globalization, interdependence and development); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8

Summary budget

(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	39.0
Consultants	259.8
Travel	57.8
Operating expenses	17.4
Workshops/training	368.0
Total	**742.0**

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[6] It is intended that activities cover three regions (Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa), thus up to two pilots per region will most likely be considered.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased capacity of Governments in selected Member States to engage in dialogues and negotiations at various levels to enhance the inclusive development contribution of preferential trade policies and agreements	(IA1.1) The majority (75 per cent or more) of the participants in the training programme indicate an increased capacity to contribute to the formulation of preferential trade policies and agreements in support of inclusive and sustainable development
	(IA1.2) Increased number of preferential trade agreements formulated or proposed by selected Governments that include specific reference to the positive impact on employment and inclusive development
(EA2) Increased capacity of Governments in selected Member States to expand South-South trade through preferential trade policies and agreements in order to generate productive employment and improve inclusive development	(IA2.1) The majority (75 per cent or more) of targeted least developed Member States' government officials and other stakeholders involved in the series of dialogues under the project report an increase in their knowledge and ability to promote and engage in South-South trade

Main activities

216. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Formulate a capacity-building programme and create training materials to support government officials' understanding of trade mainstreaming, the role of preferential trade policies, preferential trade agreement mechanisms, the preparatory process, the negotiation processes and how their contents can be formulated in a manner which ensures a more equitable distribution of the benefits of trade and investment;

(A1.2) Organize and deliver national training workshops in targeted countries in the ESCAP, ECLAC and ECA regions in implementation of the capacity-building programme formulated in activity A1.1;

(A2.1) Organize regional dialogues to identify the best regional practices and lessons learned in terms of preferential trade agreement contents and processes, including those originating from the private sector, in order to better utilize preferential trade agreements as tools of South-South cooperation. The regional workshops will be hosted in three regions by ESCAP, ECLAC and ECA;

(A2.2) In collaboration with UNCTAD, organize a global dialogue on South-South preferential trade in order to formulate new transparent trade rules which support more inclusive interregional trade, to be recommended for use in the multilateral system. The global dialogue will be organized as an interregional conference;

(A2.3) Guided by the results of the dialogues, establish and make available a data set and indicators which will make it possible to track the performance of individual preferential trade agreements with regard to their effectiveness in stimulating pro-job and inclusive trade and investment activities.

AM. Strengthening the capacity of Governments in the regions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to respond to the needs of youth in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($960,000)

Background

217. The Rio+20 summit stressed the importance of the active participation of young people in decision-making processes and encouraged the sharing of experiences and best practices on ways to address the high levels of unemployment and underemployment, in particular among youth. It also recognized that all sectors should help youth to gain access to needed skills and employment opportunities, including in new and emerging sectors. The Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda calls for deepening the youth focus of existing programmes on employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, and education, including on sexual and reproductive health. Youth are seen as both key stakeholders and assets in ensuring a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future.

218. Today's generation of youth is the largest in history, with the vast majority living in developing countries in the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions. A total of 60 per cent of the world's youth population, or 750 million young persons from 15 to 24 years of age, are in the ESCAP region. the total of young people residing in the ECA region has reached the 200 million mark. The ESCWA and ECA regions as well as large parts of the ESCAP region are also experiencing a "youth bulge", with about 20 per cent of their populations in the 15- to 24-year-old youth cohort.

219. There are commonalities in the situation and challenges faced by youth in all three regions. High levels of youth unemployment are prevalent, educational systems are under pressure to adapt and better prepare youth for the school-to-work transition in the modern economy, and there are threats to the health and well-being of young people. Social exclusion and the lack of structured opportunities for youth participation in public life have limited the role of youth in decision-making processes, which has further sowed the seeds for political instability in diverse settings.

220. Over the past decade, there has been growing recognition of the urgent need to fully integrate youth perspectives into national development, strengthen investments in youth and enhance their participation in economic, social and political processes. However, in addition to the policy gap, there is a significant deficit in terms of policy implementation, with many countries failing to translate their youth strategies into adequate and effective measures. Youth movements and organizations form easily but often lack the skills, tools and capacity to effectively shape and communicate their positions. With the right set of tools, youth voices can be heard and countries across the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions are in a prime position to tap the youth dividend.

221. The project will benefit from the extensive work on youth development issues and policies carried out by the three regional commissions, as well as the accomplishments in other regions. It will also draw from the work on youth issues of other United Nations entities, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNFPA. Building on these experiences and the good

practices from the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions, the project will enhance the capacities of policymakers to design and implement youth-driven policies.

222. As a key project output, the policy toolbox will aim to fill a gap in the currently fragmented landscape of youth-led movements and organizations throughout the three regions. The toolbox will not only be a repository of knowledge, experience and good practices, but will also provide practical inputs for policymakers to maximize the impact of youth organizations' interventions in policymaking processes.

223. Youth networks and organizations themselves will be key project partners, ensuring that planning and implementation are inclusive and participatory. The project will seek to increase the capacity of youth organizations to participate actively in relevant policymaking processes that impact their lives and futures.

Objective of the Organization: Increased participation of youth in the formulation of inclusive and sustainable development policies in the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 6 (Development policy and analysis); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	87.8
Consultants	152.7
Expert group meeting	25.0
Travel	78.0
Contractual services	195.0
Operating expenses	15.0
Equipment	5.4
Workshops/training	401.1
Total	**960.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Increased understanding among policymakers of the issues faced by youth, including young women, particularly in relation to their equal participation in economic development	(IA1.1) Increased number of policymakers whose knowledge of the situation of youth, including employment challenges, policy options, strategies and good practices, has been enhanced (to be measured through surveys before and after capacity-building workshops)
	(IA1.2) Increased number of requests received by the regional commissions from policymakers for additional analysis or assistance in relation to youth policies in their respective countries
(EA2) Strengthened capacity of policymakers to formulate cross-sectoral policies that enhance the effective participation of youth in economic, social and political life	(IA2.1) Increased number of policymakers whose capacity to formulate cross-sectoral policies that promote youth participation and employment has been improved (to be measured through targeted surveys six months after capacity-building workshops)

	(IA2.2) Increased availability of documented and recommended youth-based policies or good practices from throughout the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions
(EA3) Enhanced engagement between policymakers and youth groups in jointly designing, amending and implementing youth-based policies for inclusive and sustainable development	**(IA3.1) Increased number of youth organizations that are involved in policy discussions with policymakers in their countries for the formulation of youth-driven policies for inclusive and sustainable development**

Main activities

224. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize an interregional expert group meeting to develop the methodology for the regional analysis and to initiate interregional coordination for project implementation;

(A1.2) Provide analyses in the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions of the situation of youth, in particular addressing the five priority areas in the Secretary-General's Five-Year Action Agenda (employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, and education, including on sexual and reproductive health);

(A1.3) Organize a joint interregional capacity-development workshop for youth leaders and government representatives from nine countries (three from each region) to review the findings of the analyses, exchange national experience, promote knowledge-sharing across regions, build mutual understanding and enhance skills among youth leaders and organizations, as well as government officials;

(A2.1) Organize regional capacity-development workshops (one in each region) to review the findings of the regional analysis and to identify good practices and lessons learned related to youth policies;

(A2.2) Prepare a toolbox for Governments on planning, designing and implementing youth policies, based on the regional analysis and the outcomes of the interregional capacity-development workshop (activity A1.3), including an in-depth study of selected national-level experiences, as identified in the regional analyses (activity A1.2) and at national-level workshops (activity A2.3);

(A2.3) Organize national-level capacity-building workshops to test and apply the policy toolbox in a relevant local context on a pilot basis, in three countries;

(A3.1) Disseminate the toolbox through a regional workshop (one in each region), with two main target groups: policymakers and youth organizations. Selected key youth organizations will ensure sustainable functioning of the toolbox as a dynamic repository of knowledge on youth-driven policies (dissemination through electronic means to the rest of the region);

(A3.2) Strengthen and develop skills and tools among youth organizations from the three regions, for more effective youth-based interventions. Grants will be provided to selected youth organizations to enhance their capacity to participate in the formulation and to monitor the implementation of policies affecting youth.

AN. Enhancing knowledge and capacity for the management of disaster risks for a resilient future in Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the United Nations Development Programme ($678,000)

Background

225. The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster prone in the world. Despite the rapid economic growth in the region, many developing countries are increasingly vulnerable to disasters, as the coping capacities of communities have not expanded at the same rate as disaster frequency. Smaller economies, those that have less diversified economic structures and countries with high fiscal deficits show especially high rates of vulnerability. While the impacts of disasters are clearly multisectoral, there is limited evidence of multisectoral policy planning and implementation to address disasters. As a result, more often than not, disaster risks are not mainstreamed into broader development planning and poverty reduction strategies. The lack of socioeconomic analysis of natural disasters makes it difficult for a strong case to be made to justify significant and sustained investments in disaster risk reduction from fiscal budgets and long-term public investment plans. Damage and loss assessment, when undertaken, is not used for better planning and preparedness for future disasters. In addition, frequent economic crises that the region has been facing in recent years reduce the resilience to natural hazards of a community or a country, which in turn increases the adverse social and economic impacts of natural disasters.

226. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) specifically calls for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks. The objective of the project is therefore to enhance the knowledge and capacity of government officials and key stakeholders to manage natural disaster risk for a resilient future in Asia and the Pacific. The solution lies in promoting intersectoral dialogue and creating multisectoral interfaces for optimizing the allocation of scarce resources for inclusive and sustainable development that also helps in reducing vulnerability and exposure, and hence contributes to building disaster resilience. The project will take forward the proposed development approach and focus specifically on enhancing capacities to (a) adapt new analytical methods and tools for integrating risk-sensitive measures, including risk financing in the integrated development planning, (b) apply evidence-based policy analysis to pursue multisectoral approaches to disaster risk management as well as economic resilience to disasters, (c) develop post-disaster resilient recovery and reconstruction strategies, and (d) mainstream disaster risk management into long-term multisectoral development planning and poverty reduction strategies.

227. The project will draw on the multisectoral, multidisciplinary strengths of ESCAP to provide comprehensive options towards building resilience and will therefore involve all relevant substantive divisions and ESCAP subregional offices. ESCAP will collaborate with ECLAC to implement the project, building on the strategic partnership with ECLAC on interregional capacity development in damage and loss assessment, and, in particular, the damage and loss assessment-plus-methodology-based assessments that enable multisectoral dialogue around disaster risk reduction, vulnerability reduction, sustainable development and adaptation to climate change. Work carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat on the use of

the economic vulnerability index for development policies, and efforts made by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security on the world risk index for disasters will be integrated into the project implementation framework. The partnerships with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction established through the Thematic Working Group on Environment and Disaster Risk Management of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, will be mobilized for the project. Collaboration with respective subregional organizations will be strengthened to support the capacity development process.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to develop policies and strategies for multisectoral disaster-resilient development planning for safer communities

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 5 (Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	25.0
Consultants	92.0
Expert group meeting	120.0
Travel	115.0
Contractual services	45.0
Operating expenses	21.0
Workshops/training	260.0
Total	**678.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Improved capacity of policymakers in Asia and the Pacific to formulate effective policies and strategies to mainstream disaster risk reduction into multisectoral development planning at the national level	(IA1.1) Increased number of national policymakers in the ministries of planning, finance and disaster management in participating countries who indicate that they have enhanced knowledge and capacity to formulate policies and strategies to mainstream disaster risk reduction and associated socioeconomic risks into multisectoral development planning at the national level
	(IA1.2) Policymakers in the ministries of planning, finance and disaster management are jointly engaged in formulating policies and strategies to mainstream disaster risk reduction and associated socioeconomic risks into multisectoral development planning
(EA2) Improved capacity of policymakers in Asia and the Pacific to carry out effective damage loss assessment to be used for planning better disaster-resilient recovery and reconstruction, through a multisectoral approach, from future disasters	(IA2.1) Increased number of national policymakers in the ministries of planning, finance and disaster management who indicate that they are aware of tools, practices and lessons to better assess and prepare for effective multisectoral resilient recovery and reconstruction in the event of disasters

(IA2.2) Participating countries have initiated their assessment and preparations for effective multisectoral disaster-resilient recovery and reconstruction planning purposes

Main activities

228. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize expert group meetings at the regional level with the participation of policymakers from countries in the region to exchange tools, methodologies, good practices and lessons learned in mainstreaming resilience-building considerations into development planning processes, and identify the pilot countries based on the needs and support expressed by the respective country;

(A1.2) Provide technical assistance missions to review the outstanding gaps with regard to resilience-building at the national and community levels in consultation with policymakers in each pilot country (total of 9); and provision of advisory services to policymakers in pilot countries, in areas identified for policy interventions, to draft relevant sections in national development plans, disaster risk reduction strategies and other related policy frameworks;

(A1.3) Develop a regional network of relevant policymakers, experts and practitioners from the Asia-Pacific region and from outside the region for sharing good practices and lessons learned, and supporting technical assistance work and regional advisory services. The network will aim at providing technical support to the targeted pilot countries and will be promoted at the expert group meeting (activity A1.1), followed up with building collaboration and partnership throughout the project;

(A2.1) Provide technical assistance to pilot countries based on areas identified in activity A1.2 for policy interventions. This activity will include the preparation of training material and the organization of national training workshops;

(A2.2) Organize national expert advisory policy dialogues/training on the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction with a multisectoral approach to enable the creation of national expert advisory groups on building resilience to disasters, comprising policymakers and experts, including from the ministries of planning, finance and disaster management, to promote intersectoral dialogue and a multisectoral development planning and implementation setting;

(A2.3) Develop guidelines on socioeconomic assessment for planning resilient recovery and reconstruction specific to participating countries and disseminate them at a regional workshop;

(A2.4) Organize a regional platform for sharing lessons and experiences to other States members of ESCAP as part of the intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction to promote synergies and further strengthen capacities among countries through South-South cooperation in the areas of mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and resilient recovery and reconstruction.

AO. Strengthened capacity of small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region with regard to the valuation of environmental capital and the economic cost of gender inequality

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the United Nations Environment Programme ($638,000)

Background

229. A fundamental constraint in Asia-Pacific small island developing States is the lack of data for making informed and evidence-based sustainable development decisions. Policymakers remain unable to translate evidence into effective macroeconomic enablers that foster inclusive and sustainable development which integrate the economic, environmental and social pillars of development. Strengthening the evidence-base and the enabling environment for sustainable development planning and implementation is a key component of effective governance in small island developing States. Economic valuation of environmental capital and social equity underpins the capacity of policymakers (in particular those in ministries of finance and planning) to make balanced policy choices in pursuit of sustainable development.

230. More balanced policy choices will make it possible to put macroeconomic enablers in place and to move away from the current excessive priority attached to achieving nominal targets (such as a single digit inflation rate and a primary budget surplus to a specific public debt-to-GDP ratio). A high quality of growth in the economic, social and environmental dimensions is critical.

231. The project focuses on integrating two aspects of sustainable development into macroeconomic policymaking: economic valuation of natural capital and gender inequality. As critical aspects of the social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, valuation of natural capital and gender inequality will be illustrative of the value of internalizing and balancing environmental and social considerations in decision-making for sustainable development. While there are causative relationships between these two issues that are important to sustainable development, this is not the immediate focus of the current project. Rather, the project directly responds to the requests made by Member States in the Rio+20 outcome document for the provision of support for balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

232. Climate change, environmental degradation and ocean management are some of the most pressing issues currently facing small island developing States. Integrated sustainable development is reliant on better reflecting the economic value of natural capital in policy choices. Pacific small island developing States have limited data available for decision-making or monitoring the environment and the value of natural capital is not included in national accounts in the Pacific. This is a major constraint for effective environmental governance and the implementation of sustainable development policies, including green economy policies. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA) provides an internationally agreed framework to address this data gap. Valuing natural capital is a key aspect of green economy policies that support sustainable development.

233. In terms of the social pillar of development, gender inequality is the most prominent social issue in Asia-Pacific small island developing States. The 2007 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific found that Asia was losing between $42 billion and $47 billion a year because of restrictions on women's access to employment opportunities. In the Pacific women's limited access to economic opportunities and low representation in political and decision-making positions have posed major barriers to achieve inclusive development. Studies have indicated a high prevalence of

violence against women and girls in the Pacific. Violence against women has a devastating impact not only on the victims and survivors, and their psychosocial, reproductive and physical well-being, but also on their children, communities and society at large. Moreover, it imposes an economic burden on health care and social services, as well as the justice system.

234. The project will focus on all Asia-Pacific small island developing States from the Pacific and Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas regions (excluding Singapore). The project would draw on the substantive capacity of ESCAP in macroeconomic policy, statistics, social development and environment, as well as the training strength of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. It will work with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Small Island Developing States Unit to align actions with the global small island developing States processes and the 2014 conference outcome, as well as with UNEP (Asia-Pacific) in the implementation of SEEA.

Objective of the Organization: To develop the capacity of Governments in the Asia-Pacific small island developing States to integrate economic valuations of environmental capital and gender inequality into sustainable development planning and implementation

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 4 (Environment and development); subprogramme 6 (Social development); subprogramme 7 (Statistics); subprogramme 8 (Subregional activities for development); Economic and social affairs subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development); subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Environment subprogramme 4 (Environmental governance); Millennium Development Goals 1, 3 and 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	73.0
Expert group meeting	150.0
Travel	78.0
Contractual services	30.0
Operating expenses	3.0
Workshops/training	304.0
Total	**638.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(EA1) Strengthened capacity of environment departments, national statistical systems and national planning entities in Pacific small island developing States to provide and utilize economic valuation of natural capital (System of Environmental-Economic Accounts)	(IA1.1) 75 per cent of targeted national statistical officials, and relevant line ministries are technically competent to effectively utilize SEEA. Technical competency will be measured through a survey of project participants (IA1.2) 50 per cent of target countries have implemented a programme of environmental-economic accounting that covers at least one major natural resource category or SEEA component (e.g. water accounts, energy, aquatic resources). This will be measured using data from the national accounts published by national statistical offices

(EA2) Strengthened capacity of finance, planning and line ministries of Asia-Pacific small island developing States to undertake and utilize economic valuation of gender inequality and gender-based violence	(IA2.1) Estimates of the costs of gender inequality and gender-based violence exist in at least 75 per cent of targeted countries (IA2.2) At least 50 per cent of target countries have used the costs of gender inequality and gender-based violence in national planning. This will be measured using data from 2018 national development reports published by national planning offices and the ministries of finance, and supported with data collected from a survey of national planning entities, where necessary
(EA3) Improved integration of economic valuation of natural capital, and gender inequality and gender-based violence for evidence-based policymaking for integrated sustainable development in Pacific small island developing States	(IA3.1) Policymakers in the target countries take steps to integrate economic valuation of natural capital, and gender inequality and gender-based violence in sustainable development in national planning and budgetary processes (IA3.2) National planning documents of target countries reflect better integration of economic valuation of natural capital, and gender inequality and gender-based violence data based on project methodology

Main activities

235. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize subregional (Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia, Timor-Leste and Maldives) workshops for national statistical systems and line ministries in the Asia-Pacific small island developing States (sensitization and needs assessment);

(A1.2) Provide a regional training course on SEEA for Asia-Pacific small island developing States for national statistical entities;

(A1.3) Provide focused subregional (Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia, Timor-Leste and Maldives) training for SEEA implementation for policymakers;

(A2.1) Organize expert group meetings and prepare a publication which includes a methodology on economic valuation of gender inequality and violence against women in small island developing States. The outcome will be a small island developing States-specific publication and methodology for economic valuation of gender inequality and violence against women;

(A2.2) Organize a regional workshop (finance and social sector entities) to raise awareness about and develop technical capacity in the gender valuation methodology;

(A2.3) Provide in-country technical assistance to support the costing of programmes to combat gender inequality and violence against women;

(A3.1) Organize two expert group meetings on costing methodologies and policy, and decision-support tools for integrating economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, one in the Asia-Pacific region and one in the Pacific subregion;

(A3.2) Develop pilot projects to utilize the project methodology in national planning cycles in two Pacific countries;

(A3.3) Organize an Asia-Pacific small island developing States policy dialogue to engage ministers (finance and planning) and permanent secretaries in integrated national planning for sustainable development;

(A3.4) Establish a knowledge platform for a post-2015 development agenda for Asia-Pacific small island developing States for data, recording of baseline, monitoring and sharing of experiences on economic valuation of natural capital, and gender inequality and gender-based violence.

AP. Strengthening the connectivity of countries in South and Central Asia, particularly landlocked and least developed countries, with a view to linking with subregional and regional transport and trade networks

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, jointly with the Economic Commission for Europe ($632,000)

Background

236. The geographically contiguous regions of South and Central Asia comprise a number of landlocked and least developed countries, natural resource rich countries and some of the fastest growing economies with highly complementary economic structures. Yet intraregional trade within and between these regions is impeded by higher costs than those applicable to their trade with the European Union, owing largely to poorly developed transport links that do not allow them to benefit from geographical proximity.

237. Connectivity within and between the South and Central Asian subregions remains inadequate because of poor infrastructure conditions, missing links and the lack of transit agreements and transport facilitation. A number of overlapping groupings for regional cooperation have been established in the two subregions, namely, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), in addition to the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) programmes. Each of these groupings has proposed its own subregional transport corridors for the promotion of connectivity across their member States. Recent analysis by ESCAP has shown that the countries in the region could reap greater network externalities by integrating the subregional transport corridors.

238. Against that backdrop, this project seeks to contribute to the capacities of the countries of the two subregions in order to strengthen their connectivity through an innovative approach that encompasses (a) linking the existing and proposed subregional road and railway networks along the Asian Highway and trans-Asian railway routes and Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (EATL) corridors based on minimal investments, and (b) facilitating the movement of goods along these corridors in a mutually beneficial manner especially for the benefit of the landlocked and least developed countries in these subregions. Furthermore, in order to maximize the economic benefits

of improved connectivity, the project will explore the possibilities for facilitating trade and investment through the creation of economic corridors at the border crossings that could be of particular interest to countries emerging from conflict, such as Afghanistan, that are seeking to rebuild their economies through improved connectivity with the region's emerging markets, which could provide important economic gains and help in restoring peace and stability.

239. The project will contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the Almaty Programme of Action, which are heavily emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, it responds to numerous calls made by the States members of ESCAP and ECE in the subregions of South, South-West and Central Asia for a greater focus on capacity-building activities for Member States to improve connectivity between landlocked least developed countries and their subregional and regional partners.

240. The project will build upon and leverage the tangible outcomes from existing ESCAP and ECE work in transport and trade facilitation. ESCAP has developed the Asian Highway and trans-Asian railway route maps, and has facilitated international agreements based on them. It is currently working on an international agreement on dry ports for facilitating intermodal transport. ECE has been managing the EATL project, has facilitated inland transport conventions and agreements, including those on Euro-Asian transport, and has undertaken studies on, inter alia, the relevance and relative costs of different transport corridors and hinterland connections to maritime ports. The project will also build upon important transport and trade facilitation tools developed jointly by ECE and ESCAP, including the guides and training materials for business process analysis, simplification and automation of trade and transport documents.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacities of Member States in South, South-West and Central Asia, in particular least developed countries and landlocked countries, to plan and implement measures to enhance intraregional and interregional connectivity, and to harness their economic potential for inclusive and sustainable development

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 6 (Development policy and analysis); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	30.0
Consultants	133.0
Expert group meeting	66.0
Travel	96.0
Contractual services	22.0
Operating expenses	21.0
Workshops/training	264.0
Total	**632.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced awareness of government officials, regional groupings and financial institutions about the possible connectivity options and their economic and social benefits, including existing interregional trade opportunities	(IA1.1) Increased number of initiatives by the Member States and other stakeholders in the subregions to enhance connectivity by addressing the bottlenecks, including through intergovernmental discussions

(EA2) Increased skills of government officials, regional groupings and financial institutions to develop and implement measures to enhance connectivity in the region through the application of standards and best practices for trade and transport facilitation at the border crossings and along the main economic corridors identified	**(IA2.1) At least 75 per cent of stakeholders participating in the project indicate that they are able to more effectively plan and implement initiatives/measures enhancing connectivity for trade and transport as a result of their participation in the project activities**
	(IA2.2) Increased number of agreements between and among the Member States, and accession to international conventions related to transport and trade facilitation by countries in the two subregions
	(IA2.3) Increased number of transport infrastructure projects funded by regional banks, multilateral institutions and national Governments in the subregions

Main activities

241. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Identify key potential road and rail corridors along the Asian Highway and trans-Asian-railway networks and EATL corridors in the South and Central Asian subregions, including those proposed by SAARC, ECO and BIMSTEC, with a special focus on enhancing the connectivity for the least developed countries and the landlocked least developed countries of the subregion; estimate costs of trade owing to network (physical and non-physical) bottlenecks; evaluate potential benefits, especially for least developed countries and landlocked least developed countries, using qualitative and quantitative economic models in such areas as employment generation through increased economic activity, trade creation through enhanced competitiveness and enhanced income by providing international transport and logistics services;

(A1.2) Organize two expert group meetings (one each for road and railway corridors) to select road and rail corridors that would maximize the economic benefits for the Member States, especially for landlocked least developed countries and least developed countries;

(A1.3) Organize a policy dialogue involving key stakeholders and multilateral and regional financial institutions, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, as well as regional groupings, namely, SAARC, ECO, BIMSTEC and the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia, to enhance their awareness about the possible connectivity options and their economic and social benefits, including existing interregional trade opportunities, for policy advocacy, and build public opinion based on work done in activities A1.1 and A1.2;

(A2.1) Identify challenges for development of the selected rail and road corridors in terms of (a) infrastructure deficiencies and (b) trade and transport facilitation, in particular border-crossing facilitation, including through the collaboration of stakeholders and automation of information exchanges, and develop proposals for implementation; prepare training material and guides for capacity-building of government officials using output from the studies and the existing stock of training materials prepared by ECE and ESCAP;

(A2.2) Examine the available legal instruments (multilateral, regional and bilateral) and international arrangements for the entry of vehicles, cargoes and drivers into a country's territory for bilateral and/or for transit purposes; and examine business processes — existing and required — in countries of South and Central Asia to operationalize the identified road and rail corridors under activity A1.2;

(A2.3) Organize two subregional capacity-building workshops using training material and guides prepared under activities A2.1 and A2.2, in collaboration with subregional development partners such as the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, and drawing upon existing training materials and guides prepared by ECE and ESCAP.

AQ. Strengthening the statistical capacity of the countries members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Statistics Division, the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Monetary Fund ($518,000)

Background

242. Short-term macroeconomic fluctuations are increasingly impacting the socioeconomic well-being of people in countries all over the world. As multiple economic shocks, crises and emergencies strike at the global, regional and national levels, developing countries in particular are struggling to safeguard precious developmental gains and race to adapt to new economic realities and their impact on economic progress and social spending. In the ESCWA region, in particular, short-term policy issues have become more critical for policymakers in their quest to guide the direction of their economies in the short term and of their sustainable development in the longer term. The recent food, energy and financial crises, not to mention the rapidly changing political and security situations in many countries, demonstrate the need for a minimum set of "early warning", short-term economic indicators, adapted to the region, that are capable of providing rapid, easily accessible and reliable information on the state of the economy and the business cycle.

243. However, owing to the lack of quarterly and monthly economic data in most ESCWA member countries, policymakers are faced with difficulties in measuring and projecting the consequences of short-term economic developments. Even in some countries where short-term indicators are compiled, they are not seasonally adjusted to take into account, for example, the monthly industrial production and quarterly national accounts or employment statistics. This inability to produce, analyse and disseminate short-term economic data results in a knowledge deficit not only for policymakers and economists, but also for the media and the general public.

244. The programme statement of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Statistics Division at the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission, in 2009, called for swift and coordinated statistical initiatives by countries and international organizations in response to the global economic and financial crisis. The Statistics Division, together with Eurostat, jointly organized two international seminars, held in Ottawa in May 2009, and in the Netherlands in December 2009, on the methodology for generating high-quality early warning and business cycle indicators, their international comparability and the communications strategy for such indicators. A global template

of short-term indicators on the performance of the real economy and the financial markets for effective monitoring statistics was proposed and covered 12 categories: national accounts, production and turnover indicators, prices, labour market, the external, financial, non-financial and household sectors, general Government, financial and real estate market indicators, and economic sentiment. An assessment of the availability, periodicity and timeliness of those short-term indicators was conducted by the Division in 2010.

245. In line with the ongoing international efforts for capacity-building, ESCWA proposes the current project to assist member countries in identifying a core list of eight short-term economic indicators according to five priority areas within the responsibilities of the national statistical offices. While the project will broadly target all countries members of ESCWA, technical assistance will be focused on seven of them, taking into account existing infrastructure at the national level and the capacities of the respective national statistical offices, to ensure the feasibility of the project's implementation and its impact. The seven focus countries encompass different subregions, varied income levels and conflict countries so as to maximize the exchange of knowledge among countries and the lessons to be learned. These countries are Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia and the State of Palestine. At the conclusion of the project, all seven countries are expected to produce the selected short-term economic indicators in a timely manner, in accessible and analytically useful formats, gender-disaggregated whenever possible, and using recent information technology tools.

246. Cooperation with the Statistics Division will ensure that lessons learned and existing methodologies and agreed indicators at the global level feed into the work to be produced in ESCWA countries. The Commission's own experts will be involved in economic development and globalization in order to secure the quality of the indicators through participation in inter-agency and expert groups meetings, the provision of technical assistance to countries and coordination with United Nations-related agencies and policymaking divisions within ESCWA. ESCWA will also partner with ECA to coordinate the activities in the five North African member Arab countries that are members of both commissions. Finally, ESCWA will partner with the Middle East Technical Assistance Centre of IMF on capacity-building activities and methodological documents.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the statistical capacity of Governments in the countries members of ESCWA to produce and disseminate priority short-term economic indicators in order to support decision makers' capacity to anticipate, design and implement policies necessary to ensure inclusive, equitable and sustainable development

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 5 (Statistics for evidence-based policymaking); Economic and social affairs subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 9 (Statistics); General Assembly resolutions 55/162 and 56/95 (Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	36.8
Consultants	109.3
Expert group meeting	40.7
Travel	80.4
Contractual services	36.0
Operating expenses	6.0
Equipment	20.0
Workshops/training	188.8
Total	**518.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Consensus on a regional and subregional set of core short-term economic indicators according to economic priority	(IA1.1) Number of ESCWA countries (at least seven) identifying national needs and priorities regarding short-term economic indicators and sources and methods for compilation and dissemination
	(IA1.2) A common core of eight short-term indicators identified according to regional priorities, from within or outside the global template, for estimation and dissemination at agreed frequency
(EA2) Improved capacity of Governments in the countries members of ESCWA to collect, produce, estimate and disseminate methods of short-term economic indicators according to international standards	(IA2.1) Increased number of national statistical offices in the countries members of ESCWA that use common standards and methodologies for collection and estimation of core short-term economic indicators
	(IA2.2) Increased number of national statistical offices in the countries members of ESCWA that disseminate reliable and homogeneous time series, and seasonally adjusted core short-term economic indicators
(EA3) Increased use of short-term economic indicators for monitoring economic development and progress by policymakers, the business community, research institutions and other users of statistics, and the macroeconomic impact of the use of trade-related support measures on the export sector and growth	(IA3.1) Increased number of countries that use short-term economic indicators for monitoring economic fluctuations, as demonstrated through the ECE report on short-term economic statistics in the Commonwealth of Independent States and western Balkans countries

Main activities

247. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conduct a needs assessment survey on the regional priorities for short-term economic indicators and current national production and dissemination methods and practices in the countries members of ESCWA;

(A1.2) Organize an expert group meeting to identify eight core short-term economic indicators;

(A1.3) Produce a guidance publication, in coordination with national statistical offices, on the production and dissemination processes of the selected key short-term economic statistics. The document will be published in English and Arabic, and will aim at supporting project replication and follow-up efforts in the region;

(A2.1) Provide advisory services for developing the identified core and key sets of short-term economic statistics in selected target countries;

(A2.2) Organize three capacity-building workshops to build expertise and train staff in national statistical offices in producing the set of core regional and subregional short-term indicators, including compilation of long time series, back-recalculation and forecasting of turning points, fixed/chain-based indices, identification of time series components, and flash estimation;

(A2.3) Develop a toolkit for compiling and disseminating national data of short-term economic statistics that includes hardware and application software, a catalogue of metadata and dissemination tools;

(A3.1) Organize intraregional study tours to share knowledge and learn best practices;

(A3.2) Organize a regional workshop for evaluating the project and sharing lessons within the region and with other regions on the compilation, dissemination and use of short-term statistics, and their use in policymaking.

AR. Strengthening national capacities for integrated, sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Population Fund ($714,000)

Background

248. Sustainable development requires the adoption of strong, integrated population and development policies that place human development at the centre of balanced economic growth. Effective population and development policies reflect demographic realities to ensure an adequate and efficient allocation of resources to improve the quality of life of specific sociodemographic groups, such as youth, the elderly and migrants. They also encourage development-friendly population trends by reducing rapid population growth and the consequent pressures on resources, social services and the environment.

249. Most Arab Governments have put population councils in place to act as the national machinery for designing and influencing population and social development policies. These agencies, reporting to line ministries, serve a dual role of coordination of implementation and reporting among government agencies on specific issues of population and social policy. However, Arab population councils face important shortfalls in terms of their capacities to fulfil their mandates and, in most cases, do not reach out to civil society actors and key stakeholders in social development.

250. In most countries of the Arab region, civil society actors already play an important role in service delivery, accessing marginalized and isolated communities and providing necessary social and economic support and services where the State is often unable to do so. Their day to day interaction with these communities offers them important insights into the challenges faced by different population groups and practical local knowledge necessary to find relevant solutions. However, civil society actors have no voice in policy development processes in the region and are only included in the planning for and monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies on an ad hoc basis, subject to the availability of resources and donor support. This lack of voice is due in large part to the absence of identified common priorities between civil society and policymakers, and the absence of institutionalized structures to host and foster Government-civil society dialogue. The result is policies whose impact can only be partial, as civil society actors' complementary and specific knowledge and capacity to inform, implement and monitor, and evaluate population and sustainable development challenges are untapped.

251. Recognizing this shortcoming, in the Doha Declaration of the 2009 Arab Conference on Population and Development, the heads of the national population councils in Arab countries called upon Arab countries to enhance partnership with civil society at the national and regional levels. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in its outcome document, also notes that creating an enabling environment for civil society's engagement in sustainable development activities, including the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, is essential for their success.

252. Seizing the momentum for civil society engagement and for renewed national dialogue unleashed by the Arab Spring, the project will build on the conclusions of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 review process in the Arab States and its own bottom-up, gender-sensitive and participatory approach to forge sustainable partnerships between national population councils and civil society actors. The project will launch and support national policy dialogues in five countries members of ESCWA. The selection of these countries will be based on the findings of the ongoing assessments of progress towards the achievement of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including the global survey being undertaken by UNFPA in collaboration with the regional commissions. They will include both least developed and middle-income countries, with a view to ensuring experience-sharing, peer-learning and intraregional cooperation. The policy dialogues will aim to identify national population and development priorities, and engage in a constructive, collaborative exercise to develop and implement integrated, inclusive and sustainable population and development policies, and monitor and evaluate their impact.

253. ESCWA will take the lead in this three-year project, strengthening the partnerships developed through the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 review process with UNFPA, ECA and the League of Arab States. Moreover, the League of Arab States will facilitate contacts with the national population councils in the Arab countries.

Objective of the Organization: To build the capacities of Arab national population councils and civil society actors to jointly integrate inclusive population priorities in development policies, including their monitoring and evaluation

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 2 (Social development); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 10 (Social development); Millennium Development Goals 1-8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	35.0
Consultants	189.9
Expert group meeting	16.2
Travel	63.9
Contractual services	46.8
Operating expenses	2.6
Workshops/training	359.6
Total	**714.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Strengthened capacity of national population councils and civil society actors to identify key population and development priorities at the regional and national levels	(IA1.1) Increased number of knowledge products informing and supporting regional and national dialogue on population and development and policy reform exercises initiated in target Arab countries

(EA2) Policy reform proposals in the area of population and development formulated and reflect close partnership and commitment of governmental and civil society actors to implement national action plans in the five target countries	(IA2.1) Increased number of civil society actors engaged with governmental counterparts for policy dialogue and exchange of experience and expertise (IA2.2) Increased number of concrete policy proposals formulated and/or adopted in the selected target countries

Main activities

254. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize a regional expert group meeting that brings together regional and national experts, including from civil society, in the area of population and development to identify knowledge and capacity gaps, and develop a common methodology for regional and national data collection, review and analysis;

(A1.2) Prepare national sectoral studies on population and development issues in five Arab countries;

(A1.3) Hold one national-level workshop per target country to train governmental and civil society counterparts in analysing the findings of the sectoral studies and identifying priority areas to be presented and discussed at the regional seminar, including by providing technical assistance to national counterparts (governmental and civil society actors) in each of the five target countries to analyse data gathered, identify priorities and complete the national assessment exercise;

(A1.4) Convene a regional seminar that brings together representatives of Government (national population councils or similar institutions) and civil society actors working on population and development issues to review country studies in light of international good practices and lessons learned, and discuss and agree on high-priority areas (2-3) for policy reform in the five target countries;

(A2.1) Organize national policy dialogues in each of the five target countries and provide technical guidance to representatives of Government and civil society actors to (a) formulate a draft policy paper on how to address the identified population and development challenges, and (b) agree on a national action plan;

(A2.2) Prepare and disseminate a toolkit that comprises the key knowledge products (synthesis report and national studies) and highlights the achieved results, the challenges faced and the policy options for Arab Governments on how to further engage with civil society actors in addressing population and development issues through well-coordinated efforts to achieve development objectives;

(A2.3) Organize a regional workshop on population and development to be attended by all 22 Arab countries in order to outline the methodology used in the five national processes and reflect on the lessons learned, assess their relevance to other Arab countries and provide the other Arab countries with the tools and concepts, including a toolkit and access to a community of practice in the area, to provide support for similar processes throughout the region.

AS. Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, jointly with the Economic Commission for Europe ($632,000)

Background

255. Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix is one of the three objectives of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative. A global consensus has emerged that the deployment of renewable energy technologies is critical for three principal reasons, which are interlinked: (a) to mitigate climate change and protect the environment from the impacts of fossil fuel use; (b) to improve energy security; and (c) to encourage economic development, in particular associated with rural and agricultural sectors, or with innovation and high-technology manufacturing.

256. This is particularly relevant for developing regions, where a large percentage of the population lives in isolated rural communities that lack energy services and suffer poor socioeconomic conditions, and where renewable energy can play a major role in providing those energy services. Renewable energy can also contribute to energy security by diversifying the energy mix and achieving sustainable energy for all. Such projects also contribute to climate change mitigation efforts, which can benefit from available carbon funds. Accordingly, it is very important to promote policies for including energy produced from renewable energy sources in the energy mix in the countries members of ESCWA and other countries with a similar energy context.

257. Although the scale and scope of renewable electricity generation investments has increased rapidly in recent years, there are a number of barriers to investment that have been identified to explain why the scale of investment needed for the green economy has yet to be achieved. Cost-effective renewable energy improvements are self-financing in favourable economic and regulatory conditions in selected markets around the world today. However, developing countries and countries with economies in transition face serious challenges in attracting private investments in renewable energy for a number of reasons. Firstly, dedicated sources of financing are lacking and local banks are generally unfamiliar with such investments. Furthermore, the nature of the renewable energy projects and the size of the investments that are needed require the creation of opportunities for banks and commercial companies to invest in renewable energy projects through the development of dedicated public-private partnership investment funds. Secondly, local experts lack adequate knowledge and experience in identifying and formulating renewable energy investment project proposals. There is thus a need to develop skills in the private and public sectors at the local level to identify, formulate and implement renewable energy investment projects. Lastly, in the absence of policy and institutional support, private investors are not attracted to financing renewable energy projects. The provision of specific assistance to municipal authorities and national Governments is required to introduce reforms needed to support these investments.

258. Countries members of ESCWA recognize the importance of integrating water and energy resources management. Endorsed by the Commission's twenty-seventh ministerial session, in May 2012, the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources issued a recommendation, welcomed by the ESCWA Committee on Energy to examine the water-energy nexus. In response, ESCWA organized the Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on the Water and Energy Nexus in the ESCWA Region, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 June 2012, for members of the two intergovernmental committees to discuss their views and perceptions regarding the water and energy nexus within the regional context. The meeting resulted in the identification of seven priority areas. However, while

priorities were identified, capacity needs to be built in order to foster integrated policy analysis, formulation and implementation at the interministerial and intraregional levels.

259. A number of countries worldwide have expressed their interest in adopting renewable energy in sectors with high carbon dioxide emissions levels. Both ESCWA and ECE, as partners in this project, would select pilot countries that are (a) considering renewable energy as a priority component of their national policies and services, and (b) seeking participation in developing renewable energy markets and products. Although the project includes activities concerning policy reform, the main target is capacity-building for the development of renewable energy investment projects. The two regional commissions will seek cooperation on this project, during the implementation phase, with the World Bank, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Global Environment Facility and other potential international stakeholders.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacities of government officials, national financial institutions and national energy experts and project developers, which are involved in renewable energy in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Arab region and Europe, to attract investments in renewable energy projects as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 1 (Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development); Economic development in Europe subprogramme 5 (Sustainable energy); Millennium Development Goal 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	30.0
Consultants	116.5
Travel	51.0
Contractual services	98.0
Operating expenses	8.7
Workshops/training	327.8
Total	**632.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Improved capacity of government officials, national financial institutions and national energy experts and project developers, to develop renewable energy investment projects in the private and public sectors	(IA1.1) Increased number of renewable energy investment project proposals in public and private sectors prepared by national experts in beneficiary countries, submitted for consideration to national and international investors, financial institutions and investment funds
(EA2) Improved capacity of Governments to adopt policies and measures to improve opportunities for banks and commercial companies to invest in renewable energy projects through the development of new financing mechanisms	(IA2.1) Increased number of adopted or prepared for adoption reforms (normative and institutional framework mechanisms and incentives) to promote renewable energy market formation

Main activities

260. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Provide technical assistance to the national officials and experts through two regional training sessions (one course for each region) in renewable energy project development, finance and business planning to educate participants about the issues referred to;

(A1.2) Provide assistance to six beneficiary countries (three countries in each region) in developing an investment project pipeline (inventory of renewable energy project proposals, each of which contains a standard presentation of a renewable energy investment project, with details of the total cost of the project, investment requirements, projected internal rates of return and carbon dioxide emission reductions, to support the proposal in the process of submission to domestic and international investors, banks, investment funds and other financial institutions). Business plans will be developed for the two most interesting projects from the pipelines (one for each region), which will be selected and presented at the end-of-project workshop (activity A.1.3);

(A1.3) Organize an end-of-project workshop to bring together officials from the two regions and major domestic and foreign investors. The closing workshop will present business plans from investment project pipelines from the two regions that would be considered for financing by various financial institutions and would have a good chance to receive investments;

(A2.1) Provide knowledge, through two regional workshops (one in each region), on renewable energy investment projects, which concerns both the regulatory and policy requirements, and purely technical aspects that countries would need to address when attracting and implementing investments based on foreign or national capital;

(A2.2) Develop six case studies in beneficiary countries, in cooperation with national coordinators and national participating institutions, on the experience with policy reforms;

(A2.3) Organize two policy seminars focusing on policy reforms (one in each region) to promote financing of renewable energy investments with the aim of strengthening the capacity of national and local policymakers. The participants will consider the case studies for six countries developed in activity A2.2;

(A2.4) Establish an online platform for knowledge-sharing information and compilation of best practices and lessons learned from other regions. That platform will also provide a knowledge base on promoting investments in renewable energy projects, available international financing mechanisms and best practices, and maintaining a database of case studies, as well as proposed and approved institutional and policy reforms, and other related information (e.g. financing schemes, capacity-building and institutional strengthening).

AT. Developing the capacity of the countries members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to address the water and energy nexus for achieving sustainable development goals

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($525,000)

Background

261. Water scarcity and energy security are two of the most important sustainable development challenges facing the ESCWA region. Nearly all countries members of ESCWA are considered to have scarce freshwater resources, while energy endowments differ significantly throughout the region and affect development decisions on a daily basis. The region also faces the common challenge of providing public services in face of increasing population pressures and fostering inclusive and equitable economic development to overcome social unrest. Ensuring access to water

and energy services stands at the core of these development challenges. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation are enshrined as a human right that States have the primary responsibility to provide, while access to energy is understood to be critical for development and a key contributor to eradicating poverty and improving human health.

262. The countries members of ESCWA have thus sought to improve access to water and energy services by increasing their supply at the sector level. Conventional and non-conventional water supply systems now characterize the region, while investments in renewable and non-renewable energy resources continue to expand. However, such efforts have neglected the linkages that exist between the production and consumption of water and energy services, and the need for integrated and sustainable management of water and energy resources in order to reduce inefficiencies and conserve scarce resources.

263. At the global level, promoting the nexus between water and energy decision-making emerged during preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The Rio+20 outcome document clearly states the importance of promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources. However, the global community also admits that the human and institutional capacity for integrated natural resources management remains limited.

264. The countries members of ESCWA recognize the importance of integrating water and energy resources management. Endorsed by the Commission's twenty-seventh ministerial session, in May 2012, the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources issued a recommendation, welcomed by the ESCWA Committee on Energy, to examine the water-energy nexus. In response, ESCWA organized the Intergovernmental Consultative Meeting on the Water and Energy Nexus in the ESCWA Region, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 June 2012, for members of the two intergovernmental committees to discuss their views and perceptions regarding the water and energy nexus within the regional context. The meeting resulted in the identification of seven priority areas. However, while priorities were identified, capacity needs to be built in order to foster integrated policy analysis, formulation and implementation at the interministerial and intraregional levels.

265. The project will build the capacity of ministries responsible for water and energy resources in the ESCWA region to jointly examine and address the water and energy nexus. It will also assist the countries members of ESCWA to better understand and contribute to the global deliberations on the sustainable development goals in a post-2015 development agenda landscape, which is expected to include targets related to the water and energy sectors.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of the countries members of ESCWA to pursue the integrated and sustainable management of water and energy resources to achieve sustainable development

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 1 (Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development); Millennium Development Goal 7

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	30.6
Consultants	94.5
Travel	29.6
Contractual services	32.6
Operating expenses	5.1
Workshops/training	332.6
Total	**525.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of ministries responsible for the water and energy sectors in the countries members of ESCWA to address the water and energy nexus considerations in their strategies, policies and plans at the national and regional levels	(IA1.1) Number of strategies, policies, plans and programmes that recognize the water and energy nexus in the ESCWA region
(EA2) Improved technical capacity of public sector water and energy service providers in the countries members of ESCWA to integrate water and energy nexus considerations into their operations, activities and projects	(IA2.1) Number of operational guidance documents, project documents and activity reports that account for water and energy nexus interactions

Main activities

266. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a water-energy nexus regional policy toolkit to raise awareness and understanding about water and energy nexus issues from a regional perspective;

(A1.2) Organize two regional policy training workshops for senior decision makers and their advisers to provide training on policy tools and options for promoting integrated strategies, plans and policies on the water-energy nexus. The first workshop will review the policy framework and economic instruments for examining the nexus; the second (follow-up) workshop will provide more specificity on institutional mechanisms and incentives for pursuing policy coherence, drawing on lessons learned from the pilot projects detailed in activity A1.3.

(A1.3) Organize a workshop for the participants to identify a possible policy tool or instrument that can be applied to support the mainstreaming of water-energy nexus considerations at the national level. Up to three proposals for piloting or testing a policy tool or instrument will be accepted. Accepted proposals will be provided with technical support and advisory assistance to help in piloting the tool or instrument at the national level;

(A2.1) Prepare a water-energy nexus operational toolkit. The toolkit will help to build capacity for exchanges and collaboration across disciplines based on a common language and common set of assessment tools, techniques and indicators for pursuing resource efficiency, technology transfer and renewable energy options at the operational level, such as during investment planning or the operation and maintenance of water and energy utilities or irrigation schemes;

(A2.2) Organize three regional technical training workshops for mid-level government officials and operators to provide specialized training in the priority areas identified in activity A2.1. The workshops will cluster participants engaged in similar types of work in different sectors. Each workshop will focus on one of the following topics: (a) capacity-building to improve efficiency during the production and consumption of water and energy resources and services; (b) water and energy considerations when pursuing the transfer of new technologies within the regional context; and (c) assessing costs and benefits related to the application of renewable energy technologies in the region.

Appendix

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account during the biennium 2014-2015

(United States dollars)

	Project title	*Amount*
A.	Strengthening the capacity of national tax administrations in developing countries to effectively negotiate and apply double tax treaties for the financing of sustainable development (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECLAC and ESCAP)	632 000
B.	Supporting Member States in developing and strengthening environment statistics and integrated environmental-economic accounting for improved monitoring of sustainable development (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA)	691 000
C.	Strengthening the capacity of small island developing States to assess progress in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy to mitigate risks and reduce vulnerability (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA, ECLAC and UNDP)	588 000
D.	Supporting developing countries in their transition from Millennium Development Goals-based development strategies to broader sustainable development strategies through modelling-based policy analyses (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ESCWA, ECLAC and UNDP)	630 000
E.	Enhancing the capacity of Governments and indigenous leaders to ensure social integration and inclusive development in Africa and Asia (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA and ESCAP)	524 000
F.	Strengthening the capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively produce and use population data in policymaking for sustainable development (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA)	588 000
G.	Strengthening the capacities of selected developing countries to design national strategies for sustainable development through participatory approaches, building on the national voluntary presentations in the Economic and Social Council (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	395 800
H.	Strengthening the capacities of developing countries to provide access to development information through open government data (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA and UNDP)	592 000
I.	Strengthening the capacities of selected developing countries for effective subnational development policy formulation and planning towards sustainable development (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, ECLAC, ESCAP, ECA, UNITAR and UNU-Institute of Advanced Studies)	639 000

	Project title	*Amount*
J.	Strengthening national capacities to develop national action plans to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	413 000
K.	Building the capacity of policymakers in developing countries to address regulatory and institutional gaps in the field of sovereign debt governance (UNCTAD, in collaboration with UNDP)	588 000
L.	Supporting Member States in developing and launching sustainable product export strategies through national sustainable product export reviews (UNCTAD)	590 000
M.	Building the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports (UNCTAD, in collaboration with FAO, ECA and ESCAP)	596 000
N.	Strengthening the capacities of policymakers to assess the implications of non-tariff measures in international trade and formulate appropriate policy responses (UNCTAD, in collaboration with the regional commissions)	620 000
O.	Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean: enhancing the adaptive capacity of small island developing States (UNCTAD, in collaboration with UNEP, ECLAC and UNDP)	595 000
P.	Strengthening the capacity of the States Members of the Economic Community of Central African States to enhance domestic production linkages with the mineral resources sector (UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA)	641 000
Q.	Building the capacities of developing countries to shift towards sustainable freight transport (UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECLAC and ECA)	611 000
R.	Strengthening the capacities of policymakers in developing countries and investment promotion officials in priority sectors to attract investment for sustainable and inclusive development (UNCTAD)	585 000
S.	Building sustainable and resilient ecological food systems using ecosystem-based adaptation in agriculture-dominated landscapes in sub-Saharan Africa (UNEP, in collaboration with FAO and IFAD)	633 000
T.	Supporting developing countries in delivering sustainable consumption and production services at the country level (UNEP)	651 000
U.	Enabling sustainable and resilient development in post-crisis countries by mainstreaming environment and risk reduction into development planning (UNEP, in collaboration with UNDP and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction)	521 000

Project title	*Amount*
V. Strengthening capacities to address land tenure security in Africa through better monitoring and information (UN-Habitat, in collaboration with ECA)	501 000
W. Strengthening national capacities to formulate and adopt housing and slum upgrading strategies (UN-Habitat, in collaboration with OHCHR, UN-Women, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA)	629 000
X. Strengthening the capacities of Member States in the Asia-Pacific region to mainstream climate change concerns into national urban-related policies (UN-Habitat, jointly with UNEP and ESCAP)	730 000
Y. Strengthening the capacity of African countries to use mobile technologies to collect and disseminate data for effective policy and decision-making (ECA, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Statistics Division)	1 165 000
Z. Strengthening capacity for policy analysis, forecasting and development planning in selected African countries (ECA, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	634 000
AA. Strengthening the capacity of African Governments to negotiate transparent, equitable and sustainable contracts in extractive industries for broad-based sustainable growth and socioeconomic development (ECA, in collaboration with ECLAC, ESCAP and UNCTAD)	635 000
AB. Strengthening the capacity of the African Peer Review Mechanism countries in conducting effective self-assessment and implementing national plans of action (ECA, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa)	624 000
AC. Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing in selected countries with economies in transition (ECE, in collaboration with UN-Habitat)	533 000
AD. Strengthening capacity in the most vulnerable countries in the Economic Commission for Europe region for the sustainable development of statistics (ECE)	535 000
AE. Strengthening the capacity of transitional and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chains (ECE, in collaboration with ESCAP)	440 000
AF. Strengthening the capacity of Government and water operators to ensure equity of access to water and sanitation in countries in transition in the Economic Commission for Europe region, with a particular focus on small-scale water supplies and sanitation in rural areas (ECE, in collaboration with WHO)	578 000
AG. Strengthening the technical capacity of public finance managers in select Caribbean small island developing States to manage their public finances (ECLAC)	492 000

Project title	*Amount*
AH. Promoting inclusive finance through development banking innovation practices to support social, productive development and structural change in Latin American countries, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (ECLAC, in collaboration with ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	502 000
AI. Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries (ECLAC, jointly with ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	862 000
AJ. Logistics integration for more sustainable exploitation of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, in collaboration with ESCAP)	612 000
AK. Strengthening national capacities to design and implement rights-based policies and programmes that address care of dependent populations and women's economic empowerment in urban areas (ECLAC, in collaboration with UN-Women and UN-Habitat)	564 000
AL. Enhancing the contribution of preferential trade agreements to inclusive and equitable trade (ESCAP, in collaboration with ECLAC, ECA and UNCTAD)	742 000
AM. Strengthening the capacity of Governments in the regions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to respond to the needs of youth in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies (ESCAP, jointly with ECA, ESCWA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	960 000
AN. Enhancing knowledge and capacity for the management of disaster risks for a resilient future in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, in collaboration with ECLAC, the OCHA, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and UNDP)	678 000
AO. Strengthened capacity of small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region with regard to the valuation of environmental capital and the economic cost of gender inequality (ESCAP, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP)	638 000
AP. Strengthening the connectivity of countries in South and Central Asia, particularly landlocked and least developed countries, with a view to linking with subregional and regional transport and trade networks (ESCAP, in collaboration with ECE)	632 000
AQ. Strengthening the statistical capacity of the countries members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth (ESCWA, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Statistics Division, ECA and IMF)	518 000
AR. Strengthening national capacities for integrated, sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region (ESCWA, in collaboration with ECA and UNFPA)	714 000

Project title	*Amount*
AS. Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development (ESCWA, jointly with ECE)	632 000
AT. Developing the capacity of countries members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to address the water and energy nexus for achieving sustainable development goals (ESCWA)	525 000
Total	**28 398 800**